



Wedgworth Leadership Institute

Alumni Association Newsletter

Volume 1, March 2010

May you live in interesting times

by Nancy and David McDonald



Every few months I get that “gentle reminder” from Hannah that she needs a President’s Letter for the newsletter and I struggle to come up with some semi-literate sentence about something relevant. So in trying to come up with something I reflected on what has happened in 2010 so far. We have seen devastating earthquakes in Turkey, Haiti, and Chile as well as some smaller ones in Illinois, Oklahoma and California. There was record snowfall on the East Coast coupled with below normal cold temperatures that affected crops all the way down to Dade County. I know we dreaded going to the mail box and finding the gas bill. The political climate has been anything but calm this year as well. The challenges that we are all facing bring to mind the opportunities that we have in dealing with them and, as leaders of the Agricultural community, the responsibility we have to step up and be heard.

I hope everyone took the time to fill out the survey that was sent out this past month. The program will be undergoing a review to make sure it is current

and relevant in these changing times. Your input as alumni and leaders of the industry is critical to this process. WLI Class VIII is in the works for later this year, so everyone needs to be thinking of nominees.

The 2010 WLI Alumni meeting will be held at the Ritz-Carlton at Grande Lakes in Orlando. It is a fantastic site and they are excited about hosting our event. We are working on putting together another great program and look forward to seeing everyone there. The program is still in the works, so if you have any suggestions please send them along. Square dancing is back by popular demand. The best part of this position is being in contact with so many alumni, and of course working with our wonderful staff and director.

The worst part – is writing this letter.

Wedgworth Alumni Association 2010 Annual Conference



Save the Date! Please schedule your calendars now for the August 13th- 15th Wedgworth Alumni Association Annual Conference to be held at the

beautiful Ritz-Carlton Grande lakes in Orlando, Florida.

Ritz-Carlton Grande Lakes in Orlando, Florida. Born from inspiration (Website: <http://www.grandelakes.com/>).

It began with a simple idea: to create a destination distinguished through its authentic, enriching and organic nature. We found the perfect home for this idea at the pristine Headwaters of the Everglades – an area of exquisite beauty and timeless charm. Our original idea has grown to become the region’s most sought-after resort destination, Grande Lakes Orlando. Discover for yourself how the true spirit and texture of the land have given birth to a world of endless inspiration.

As our guest, you’ll have access to a variety of the region’s best amenities including:

- The Ritz-Carlton Orlando, Grande Lakes, featuring the exceptional comfort of 584 guest rooms, including 64 suites, 56 Ritz-Carlton Club® Level rooms and suites, with a variety of distinctive amenities and over 47,000 square feet of flexible meeting space
- JW Marriott Orlando, Grande Lakes, featuring more than 100,000 square feet of flexible meeting space, plus 1,000 guest rooms and suites, and a lazy-river outdoor heated pool

The Ritz-Carlton Golf Club, Orlando, Grande Lakes featuring an 18-hole par-72 Greg Norman Signature Golf Course, and a unique Golf Caddie Concierge program Grande Lakes Orlando offers you access to central Florida’s most sought-after destination. Two of the greatest names in hospitality, The Ritz-Carlton and JW Marriott, accommodate each moment with grace and comfort. Discover the timeless charm of Florida as it was meant to be. Whether you’re planning an intimate executive retreat, board meeting or

magnificent gala, we will help create an exceptional experience that is just right for you.

- 107,000 square feet of outdoor space with breathtaking panoramic views
- Over 500 acres of tropical gardens, lakes and pristine wetlands
- 15 minutes from Orlando International Airport
- Within minutes of the Orange County Convention Center and Orlando’s world-famous attractions and theme parks
- The Ritz-Carlton Spa, Orlando, Grande Lakes featuring 40 treatment rooms, a 4,000-square-foot lap pool and a 6,000 square foot fitness center
- Restaurants and dining where the cuisine is as diverse and vast as the property itself

RATES FOR THE 2010 ANNUAL MEETING:

	Friday	Saturday
	08/13/2010	08/14/2010
Rate	\$129.00	\$129.00

More Information will be available soon.

WLI Program Update

by Hannah Carter

Spring has sprung and we are excited about the prospect of beginning Class VIII (yes, that’s Class VIII—where does the time go!) We are going to be conducting a program review in the next month (thank you all who participated in the on-line survey) to determine programmatic changes for this next class. Times have certainly changed the past two decades this program has been in existence and while some facets of the program will stand the test of time, some things we need to revisit and possibly revamp. It’s an exciting time to be involved in leadership programming and we’re looking forward to making Class VIII’s experience the best it can be!

Rochelle Strickland, who worked for the program during Class VII's tenure, is in the process of conducting her dissertation research on the impacts of these leadership programs. She has conducted a focus group of the leadership program directors last fall during our annual directors meeting. She then conducted in depth interviews with directors from four programs representing different areas here in the U.S. From the focus group and the interviews she will be putting together a survey for program alumni, which will include all WLI alumni. We are hopeful this research will determine specific impacts of these ag leadership programs. Be on the lookout for Rochelle's survey this summer!

While I don't want to wish the summer away, I am looking forward to our annual alumni meeting at the Ritz Carlton in August! I hope that you will make an effort to attend! Last year's meeting was a huge success and we only want to build on it! Mark your calendars for August 13-15th!

Jack Payne is the new Senior Vice-President for Agriculture and Natural Resources



GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Jack Payne has been selected as the University of Florida's next senior vice president for agriculture and natural resources, UF President Bernie Machen announced today.

today.

Payne currently serves as the vice president for extension and outreach at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa, a post he has held since 2006. He worked in a similar position at Utah State University prior to joining ISU. He begins his new role at UF on June 1.

“Jack Payne's wealth of experience from both in and out of land-grant institutions gives him a keen vision to guide UF to meet the 21st Century challenges facing the state's agriculture industry and to educate a new generation of students,” Machen said. “We look forward to his contributions as a member of the senior leadership team.”

Payne, 63, has spent much of his career helping solve agronomic problems for the benefit of farmers and wildlife while at several large land-grant institutions and with Ducks Unlimited, the world's largest private wetlands conservation organization.

“It is an honor to become a part of UF, one of the country's great land-grant universities,” Payne said. “UF's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences is the heart of that land-grant ideal and it will be important to build upon its strengths and existing strong foundation and to continue to produce tangible and conspicuous benefits to its two most important stakeholders: our students and Florida residents.”

As senior vice president, Payne will lead IFAS, which includes the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, the School of Natural Resources and Environment, the School of Forest Resources and Conservation, portions of the College of Veterinary Medicine, the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station, 13 research and education centers and the Florida Cooperative Extension Service, with offices in each of the state's 67 counties.

Payne holds a master's degree in aquatic ecology and a doctorate in wildlife ecology, both from Utah State University. He is a graduate of the Institute for Educational Management at Harvard University and earned his bachelor's degree at Temple University.

He has served on the faculty of four land-grant institutions: The Pennsylvania State University, Texas A&M University, Utah State University and Iowa State University. The Pennsylvania native spent most of his career in the agriculture-rich states of Texas, California, Washington, Iowa and Utah, working to meet the needs of ranchers and farmers.

“Everything I have done in my career, I believe, has prepared me for the great challenges and wonderful opportunities that await me at the University of Florida,” Payne said.

He serves as chairman of the board on agriculture for the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities and represents the land-grant system in the annual federal appropriation process. His work with the APLU has included developing the land-grant systems’ needs for the Farm Bill legislation. He also is a key representative on policy changes with the U.S. Department of Agriculture as they apply to land-grant universities.

Payne succeeds Larry Arrington, who was appointed interim senior vice president for agriculture and natural resources last year when Jimmy Cheek left to become chancellor of the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.

From: <http://news.ufl.edu/2010/02/26/vp-payne/>

Minnesota Agriculture and Rural Leadership Program – Class V Visits South Florida on their way to Cuba

On February 15th and 16th, the Minnesota Agriculture and Rural Leadership Program visited Miami and south Florida on their way to their international trip destination, Cuba. They arrived in Miami on Monday afternoon and that evening they enjoyed dinner in Little Havana and Jorge Abreu (Class VII) met with the group to share with them his thoughts on Cuba.

On Tuesday, they boarded a bus and headed to the Everglades Agricultural Area in Belle Glade and began a tour of the area at Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative. When they arrived, they

enjoyed breakfast sponsored by Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative and Mr. George Wedgworth welcomed the group and gave them a brief overview of the sugar cane industry in Florida and the Cooperative. Keith Wedgworth (Class VII) and Dennis Wedgworth (Class I) provided a great deal of information on the sugar cane industry, south Florida agriculture and answered many of the groups questions throughout the morning. The group then toured the mill and visited a sugar cane field to watch it being harvested. This experience will provide valuable contrast as the group was planning on visiting sugar operations in Cuba. From the sugar cane field, they then went to a lettuce field in harvest and were joined by David Basore (Class I). David provided an overview of his operation and explained about the lettuce industry in Florida. From there, the group then went on a tour of TKM Packing House with Stephen Basore (Class VI).

The tour concluded with lunch at the Everglades Research and Education Center. Dr. Chris Wadill welcomed the group and gave a brief overview of the research going on at the Center. Lyn Cacella DuBois of Farm Credit of South Florida joined the group for lunch and also provided handouts of information on South Florida ag. Hannah Carter, Director of the Wedgworth Leadership Institute for Agriculture and Natural Resources then gave the group an overview of the WLI program and answered questions. Lunch was sponsored by Wedgworth Farms and David Basore. Special thanks go to Keith Wedgworth for putting the whole tour together!



Alumni in the News

Eric Hopkins (Class V) receives Farm Credit's Phelps-Martin Award



Class V alum Eric Hopkins received Farm Credit's Phelps-Martin award for his exceptional personal contribution in service to his community. Hopkins, a board director with Farm Credit of South Florida, is the vice president and business manager of Hundley Farms, a commercial agricultural operation based in Belle Glade, which produces sugar cane, sweet corn, radishes, green beans, rice and sod.

Hopkins serves on the Farm Credit of South Florida board of directors and as the Youth Program Chairman for "Leadership Palm Beach County" since 2001. The youth program engages a select group of high school juniors in the county, and puts them through a seven-month civic-engagement and leadership development experience.

In support of Mr. Hopkins' nomination, the executive director of Leadership Palm Beach County wrote: "I have had the opportunity to interact and work with thousands of volunteer community leaders. Eric stands out among the top one-half of one percent I know. With his combination of knowledge and personality, Eric is just the kind of person you hope steps up to lead in your community."

The annual awards are named in honor of Steve Phelps, general counsel for The Farm Credit Council, and Marsha Martin, chairman of the

FCA Board, both of whom died from cancer in 2000 and were both noted for their commitment to community service. Along with recognition at The Farm Credit Council's Annual Meeting and a distinctive trophy, those honored with the Phelps-Martin Award also receive a check for \$1,000 for the charity of their choice. Congrats Eric!

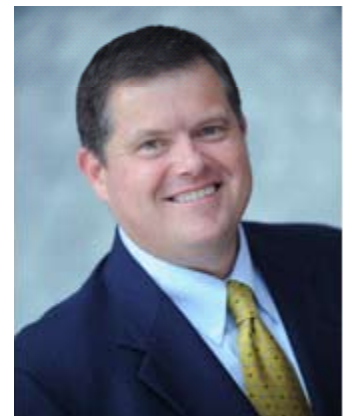
Brad Hester (Class II) opens new law firm and has been recently appointed to the Orange County Agricultural Advisory Board.

From the UF College of Design, Planning and Construction newsletter:

David "Brad" Hester, ARC 1987, is an attorney living in Winter Park, Fla. He received his MBA from UF in 1990 and a JD from UNC/Chapel Hill in 2000, before starting his own law firm, Miller, Hester & Eisele, P.L., in July 2009. The firm's primary practice areas are commercial real estate transactions, development and finance, commercial litigation, construction litigation and lender representation. Hester utilized his architecture degree in designing the layout of his new, contemporary office space.

Brad's contact information is as follows:

Miller, Hester & Eisele, P.L.
429 S. Keller Road, Ste. 310
Orlando, FL 32810
(407) 478-7950
brad@millerhester.com

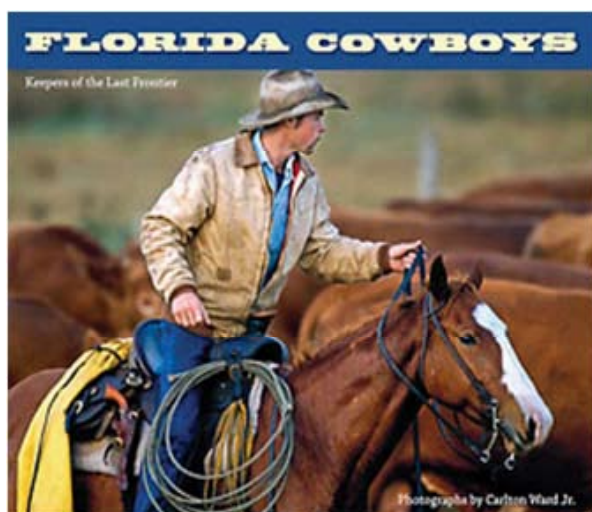


Charlie Wilson (Class VII) is the new president of Highlands County Citrus Growers Association



to be able to open his exhibition on the heels of a tremendous honor that will hopefully generate even more interest in his work and visitors to the Center.” The exhibit opened February 11 and will run through March 21.

The Lake Wales Arts Council, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization whose mission is to promote, encourage and celebrate the arts for the enhancement of community life. The Arts Center is located at 1099 S.R. 60 East in Lake Wales. The Arts Center is open year round, Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information, please call 863.676.8426 or visit the website www.lakewalesartcenter.org.



The Photography of Carlton Ward (Class VII) Honored at National Cowboy Poetry Gathering - On Display through March 21 at Lake Wales Art Center

Carlton Ward’s (Class VII) Florida Cowboys: Keepers of the Last Frontier, the eighth-generation Floridian’s photographic work was recently honored at the 26th Annual National Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko, Nevada.

The Lake Wales Arts Council recently opened the exhibit in February, after the artist’s book and work are featured at the grand opening of Florida Cattle Ranching: Five Centuries of Tradition. Arts Council president, Cindy Alexander noted, “We are thrilled that Carlton is being recognized for his remarkable work. We were very excited

Mid-Year Meeting Updates

Regions I & II Mid-Year Gathering

On Saturday, March 13th, Region I and II alums gathered in beautiful McAlpin, FL at Jeff Lee’s (Class VI) for a wonderful meal and a briefing on the 2010 Florida legislative session by Alan Shelby (Class VI). Nancy and David McDonald (Class III & Class VI), WLI Alumni Co-Presidents made the trip and encouraged everyone to attend the 2010 Annual Alumni Meeting and remain active in the WLI Alumni Association. Every class was represented at this event and a great time was had by all!



Jeff Lee, Class VI of Region II



Nancy and David McDonald,
Co-President's of WLIANR address
Region I & II alumni



Enjoyable afternoon at the Palm Beach
International Equestrian Center

Region VI enjoys time at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Festival in Wellington

On Sunday, February 14th, members of Region VI were treated to an afternoon at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center. They were given a tour by Barbara Lang, the PR Director for Equestrian Sports Production which is the operation that manages the shows and the show grounds. Region VI members watched the \$25,000 G & C Farm Young Riders Grand Prix, which is part of the 2010 Winter Equestrian Festival. Special thanks go to Lyn Cacella DuBois for putting together such a fun and enjoyable afternoon!



Jeanie Roth, Rick Roth, Mark DuBois, Lyn Cacella DuBois, Barbara Lang (PR Director for Equestrian Sports Production), Ila Locke, Gary Locke and Peggy Harowitz

Class News

by Lisa Lochridge

Class VII Holds Reunion

The Florida State Fair in Tampa served as a backdrop for a Class VII seminar Feb. 5-6. It was the first time the group had met since graduation in August 2009, and 18 from the class of 28 participated in at least one of the events during the weekend.

The group kicked off the weekend by catching up over dinner at the Columbia Restaurant in Ybor City on Friday evening. The next morning, Dr. Hannah Carter gave a presentation titled "What Are You Doing With Your Wedgworth Experience" and led a discussion about setting priorities and maintaining the momentum generated by the Class VII seminars.

The remainder of Saturday was family time. Class members, spouses and children spent a cool, windy afternoon at the fair. Several stopped by the pork chop sandwich concession run by the Iowa Pork Producers, who had hosted the class during Seminar VI in Tama County, Iowa. The evening was topped off with a splendid barbecue dinner and a roaring bonfire (complete with 'smores) at Crystal Springs Preserve, hosted by Karen Pate.

We extended some Wedgworth hospitality to the IPP folks, who joined us for dinner.



Members of Class VII with their families at the Carlton Cracker House at the Florida State Fair.

Other News



Join WLI Alumni on Facebook!

Reconnect with classmates and other members of the WLI Alumni Association by joining the Wedgworth Leadership Institute Facebook group. This group is only open to members of the WLI Alumni Association, current class members and WLI staff—they are the only ones that can access this group site. To increase visibility of the program, a Facebook fan page has been created. Anyone can become a “fan” of this page—many other ag leadership programs also have fan pages (check out Leadership Wisconsin’s fan page). This will be a great tool in getting the word out about the WLI!

WLI Program Website - <http://wlianr.ifas.ufl.edu>

WLI Alumni Website - <http://www.wlianr.com>
