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Wanderlust 2009: *Guests Partied like it was 2005!*

Another successful Wanderlust annual gala dinner/auction transcended April 16, 2009 to near-mythical heights. The beautifully executed event provided a seamless display of dazzling images reflecting the mythological Greek god *King Midas*. From the visual designs in the reception area to the table centerpieces in the ballroom, the entire evening was caressed with gold. The event was also a financial success, considering the current economic slowdown. With 440 people in attendance, Wanderlust 2009 raised approximately \$150,000. A portion of the money is slated to finish Herbert J. Sugden Hall and some will become seed money for future scholarships; the rest will be used for operations of the RHM/PGM programs.

The Wanderlust 2009 attendees enjoyed a chance to “break away” from the outside world for an evening at the beautiful Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort & Spa’s ballroom. The unofficial “kick-off” came from the resort’s Managing Director *Joe Murgalo*, who proclaimed that we should all party “like its 2005!” Indeed, *King Midas* turned our event into gold that evening.

We are very grateful to Pat Carroll of Embassy Suites and Diana Willis of Jason’s deli. As the co-chairs of Wanderlust, they undertook yearlong leadership roles to make the event a success. The tireless efforts of the more than 70 RHM/PGM students, Dr. Mary Wisnom, Ron Albeit, all the Wanderlust committee members, Eventz, Inc., the RHM board, Karen Royal, and many others are also much appreciated. Thank you to all the organizations that bought sponsor tables.

We bestow a special thank you to the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort & Spa, Joe Murgalo, Ellen Biller, Paige Hildenbrand, Andreas Singer, and the entire team. Your stunning resort was the ideal venue for the event, as it exquisitely complemented the event’s gold motif. Thank you for hosting Wanderlust 2009 at your lovely property.



RHM Advisory Board Meeting

Date: Wednesday, May 13, 2009
at 9:00 a.m.

Location: Trianon Hotel, Bonita Bay

RHM News & Notes

Sugden Hall Completion

Phase II of Sugden construction will commence the first week of May on the state-of-the-art spa learning laboratory. August is the anticipated month of its completion, in time for the 2009-2010 academic year. Construction for the Wine/Food Technology Laboratory, Ballroom, and Instructional Kitchen is expected to be finished by the end of 2009. Due to construction, all RHM summer classes will be held in other buildings on campus.

Profile of New RHM Professor

Please join us in extending a warm Southwest Florida welcome to Dr. Scott Lee, who will be our newest full-time RHM assistant professor for the fall semester. Dr. Lee is coming from the Rosen College of Hospitality Management in Orlando. He has more than 10 years experience managing or teaching others about hospitality. His background includes management positions with Universal Studios Orlando and Wet 'n Wild. He began his teaching career as an adjunct instructor and was awarded adjunct professor of the year by the Rosen College student hospitality association in 2005. Dr. Scott holds a Doctorate in Educational Leadership, a Master's in Business Administration, and a Bachelor's in Leisure Services and Recreational Management. His past academic experience also includes the position of hospitality internship faculty coordinator.



Dr. Scott Lee

Congratulations to the Wanderlust 2009 Award Winners

Wanderlust Leadership Award

Mr. Brian Holly
General Manager
Holiday Inn Fort Myers Town Center



Mr. Brian Holly



Ms. Sandy Stilwell

Wanderlust Patron Award

Ms. Sandy Stilwell
Stilwell Enterprises

Wanderlust Appreciation Award

Dr. Ken Millar
Dean, College of Professional Studies
Florida Gulf Coast University



Dean Ken Millar

PGA News & Notes

Pearson Memorial Golf Clinic a Success!

PGM students staged a free golf clinic benefit and collected donations on March 21, 2009 at Miromar Lakes Beach & Golf Club. The proceeds went to the widow and baby daughter of Drew Pearson. Drew, 25, was tragically killed during an automobile accident in December. He was a PGA Certified Professional, General Manager of Bobcat Trail Golf Club in Northport, Florida, and adjunct faculty in the PGA program at FGCU. He died while returning home from the hospital after seeing his newborn daughter, Peyton, for the first time. The PGM, led by students Jason Becker and Thomas Mayer, took it upon themselves to hold a fundraiser for Drew's wife, Emily, and daughter Peyton. The event raised nearly \$5000, which was given to the family. The students, faculty, and staff in the PGA and RHM programs wish Emily and Peyton well.



Ken McMaster and Marty Hall



Jason Becker, Dr. Steve Eisenberg, & Dr. Wilson Bradshaw



Jason Howard and Brady Fennel



Frederico Torresani and Mike Sheehan



Ryan Coll

Golf Tournaments

PGM President Ryan Coll and Director of Golf at Black Diamond, Lynn Janson, coordinated an event for the PGM students and approximately 20 PGA golf professionals from Southwest Florida on March 30 at Black Diamond golf course. Mr. Coll is an intern at Black Diamond, which is located in Lecanto, is the #2 ranked course in the State of Florida, and within the top 100 nationwide. In addition, many thanks to The Quarry golf community and PGA professional Matt Russell for hosting a PGM tournament on April 19, 2009.



Marty Hall, Lynn Janson, Dr. Steve Eisenberg



Stephen Burlison, Michael Tarah, Jimmy Othus, Dr. Steve Eisenberg

Field Trips/Guest Speakers

The following esteemed professionals recently came on campus to speak with our students. We are grateful for your willingness to share your time, effort, and expertise.

Andrea Bach, Director of Club Operations at Shadow Wood Country Club and The Commons Club at the Brooks



Andrea Bach

Jim Butler, General Manager for Grey Oaks Country Club

David Carter, Director of Spa at La Playa Beach & Golf Resort

Pam Cronin, Vice President of Fun Stuff for the Shell Factory and Nature Park

Suya Davenport, Executive Director of the Lee County Convention & Visitors Bureau

Joseph Elwell, Maitre d' at Bonita Bay Club

Kevin Elwell, Food and Beverage Manager at the Philharmonic Center for the Arts

Peter Falzo, Head Steward at La Playa Beach & Golf Resort

Alison Flick, Coordinator of Student Training and Development FGCU, formerly with The Ritz-Carlton and Banyon Brown

Hunter Hansen, Managing Director for The Naples Grande Beach Resort and Edgewater Resort

Fred Hirschovits, President and CEO of Twenty/Twenty Worldwide Hospitality

Brian Holly, General Manager of the Holiday Inn Airport at the Town Center

Richard McPhail, General Manager at Shadow Wood Country Club and The Commons Club at the Brooks

Garrett Morgan, Director of Human Resources for the Marco Island Marriott

Joe Murgalo, General Manager of the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point

Cheryl Pavlick, Director of Human Resources for Collier Enterprises

Darren Robertshaw, General Manager and Vice President of Trianon Hotels

Donald Sawin, Senior Sales Manager at The Ritz-Carlton Resorts of Naples

Scott Willis, Owner/Operator of Jason's deli

Bill Wright, Food & Beverage Director of for The Villages at Country Creek



Donald Sawin

Our appreciation goes out to the organizations and people that recently hosted our students and provided tours of their facilities.

Bayfront Inn 5th Ave and Janessa Stedcke & Carly Babka

Bellasera Hotel and Steve McIntire

Bonita Bay Club and Joseph Elwell

Bayfront Inn
5th Avenue



Embassy Suites and Brad Wymer & Dan Sullivan

Germain Arena and Sammy Wallace, Kyle Brush, & Collette McCormick

Golden Door at Naples Grande Beach Resort and Vanessa Carter

Holiday Inn and Fred Hirschovits & Brian Holly

Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort & Spa and Andreas Singer

Miomar Lakes Beach & Golf Club and Robert Miozzo & Glyn Williamson

Naples Grande Beach Resort and Hunter Hansen, Theo Gornell, & Robert Massi

Philharmonic Center for the Arts and Kevin Elwell

Roy's Restaurant and Sondra Hon & Wade Lowe

Sanibel Harbour Resort & Spa and Nikki Horne

The Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Club

Trianon Hotel and Darren & Stacy Robertshaw

Hyatt Regency
Coconut Point
Resort & Spa



Professional Association Recognizes Karen Royal

Karen Royal, executive secretary to Dr. Sherie Brezina, was recently one of two finalists for the Administrative Professional of the Year award issued by the Fort Myers chapter of the International Association of Administrative Professionals.



Karen Royal

Alumni Profile

Grant Gorski is a Community Association Manager for Sentry Management, Inc. in Fort Myers. He is employed with the largest community association management firm in the state with 12 offices in Florida; as well as satellite offices in Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Tennessee. Currently, he is managing 11 associations in Lee County totaling 877 doors and \$2.1 million in budgets, three employees, and what seems like a never-ending day.

Etiquette Dinner Leaves Lasting Impression on Students

FGCU students learned the appropriate decorum for business meals with potential employers on Thursday, April 2 at the Embassy Suites, Estero. Sponsored by FGCU Career Development Services and the Alumni Association, Ms. Nonnie Owens instructed the students about table etiquette while students enjoyed a five-course meal.

Thank you to the many Southwest Florida resort, hospitality, and club facilities for supporting our students during their spring 2009 field experiences/ internships.

Club Managers Association of America

The student chapter now has 15 members and the club managers in the area have been generous with their time and support. The students meet monthly, hosted by a different club in Southwest Florida. Various club managers are offering to pay for CMAA student memberships.

Student Chapter Party's in New Orleans

Several members of the FGCU student chapter of the Club Managers Association of America attended the annual CMAA conference in New Orleans. Beyond being a first-rate conference with excellent presenters, the students benefited from an environment of collegiality and networking. Almost all of them ended up with summer internships in exciting places like New York's Hamptons by networking/interviewing at the conference. Thank you to Tom Noyes of Wild Cat Run and Michael Seabrook of The Club at Mediterra

for seeing to it that we were invited to the Everglades Chapter dinner at the famous Bourbon House. We also very much appreciate the warm welcome that Jack Sullivan and Joseph Sumner gave to our students during the pre-dinner cocktail reception.

CMAA Everglades Chapter Welcomes RHM Students

Thank you to the clubs that provided the student chapter with space to hold our meetings and provided tours and breakfast for the students. The following are the clubs and their respective managers: Grandézza and Charles Howlin & Dan

Guronski, Olde Cypress Club and Ken Lanigan, The Club at Longshore Lake and Sharon Murphy.

Also, we appreciate the efforts of the new CMAA Managing Director, Erin Herzog Bisceglia, who started her position in January. Erin has been supportive of our new student "colony" by interacting with our students in New Orleans and speaking at a recent student meeting. In addition, we thank George Hunt, Robert DiBiase, Andrea Bach, and Dick McPhail for your continued support of our students.



L to R: Jessica Wickey, Dr. George Alexakis, Elizabeth Romerobernardez, Charles Dannewitz, Electa Saker, Michael Methot, Lauren Fitch, Kacie Stratton

We Want to Hear from You!

If you are interested in submitting articles for future newsletters, contact Dr. George Alexakis (editor) at galexaki@fgcu.edu or 239 590 7493. Division of Resort & Hospitality Management
<http://cps.fgcu.edu/Resort/index.html>



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