

In this Issue...

Director's Dialogue
Challenge by Choice
Gallivanting in Gainesville
Multiple Perspectives
Coordinator's Corner



Wedgworth Leadership Institute for Agriculture & Natural Resources



Class
IX

Let's **Reflect**

Director's Dialogue *Dr. Hannah Carter*

"Few men during their lifetime come anywhere near exhausting the resources dwelling within them. There are deep wells of strength that are never used."

-Richard Byrd, U.S. Navy admiral and explorer

The second week of November, 29 individuals from around the state, representing many facets of Florida's agriculture and natural resource industries, came together to begin the process of learning about the resources that dwell within them—and then how they can best utilize these resources for the betterment of themselves, their organizations, industries and Florida agriculture and natural resources. Let the learning and adventure of Class IX of the Wedgworth Leadership Institute begin!

This is one of the most diverse classes of the WLI—from geography, to industry, this class was carefully selected from a record number of applications. I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the WLI alumni who helped with

this process—it certainly was not easy as there were many, many qualified applicants who were not chosen for this class. It is my hope that they will reapply and a WLI class will be in their future. Unfortunately, one person had to withdraw from the class due to unforeseen circumstances the week prior to Seminar I—so Class IX will be made up of 29 outstanding individuals. It was gratifying to see them meet as strangers as Monday, leave as friends on Friday and already eagerly anticipating the next seminar.

A new addition to Class IX is Dr. Joe Joyce. Dr. Joyce is the Senior Associate Vice President for IFAS and while no one can fill the shoes of Dr. Burl Long, I'm pleased that Dr. Joyce will be a part of this class as he has a depth of leadership experience appreciation of leadership programming and of Florida's agriculture and natural resource industries that will make him a valuable addition to

the WLI team. Also part of this team is Kevan Lamm, who will serve as the Program Coordinator for this class. Kevan is a Ph.D. student in leadership development with a vast experience in the private sector. As part of Kevan's responsibilities, he will be the editor of our "Let's Reflect" newsletter series for Class IX and we appreciate all his efforts in sharing the experiences of this class during the next two years.

As I count my blessing during this holiday season, I am deeply grateful to be a part of the legacy begun by Dr. Eugene Trotter and for the people around the state—the alumni and stakeholders—who continue to make this program one of the best in the world. I wish you all the happiest of holidays and my best for 2014!



Challenge by Choice *Joshua Craft*



“Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success.” Henry Ford’s quote

regarding teamwork and leadership couldn’t have summed up the first day of Class IX of the Wedgworth Leadership Institute any better.

Monday morning started like every other, with multiple taps of the snooze button followed by a few cups of morning coffee. However, we all knew that this Monday was going to be different. It was the start of a twenty-two month journey for thirty leaders from agriculture and natural resources and a day that we all have been waiting for since we received the invitation from Dr. Hannah Carter. Some members of the group were old acquaintances, while the rest were soon-to-be new friends and part of the Wedgworth family.

After checking into the Reitz Union hotel and having some informal conversations in the lobby, the class made their way to the McConnell YMCA Outdoor Center. Over a boxed lunch, great conversation ensued and the class quickly began coming together in true Wedgworth fashion. The afternoon turned serious when we were asked to fill out liability waivers and make sure our life insurance policies were paid up. I’m joking about the latter, but there were some interesting utters of beneficiaries and who was entitled to what.

Upon finishing lunch, James Mostek, the Program Director at the camp, escorted the class to the ropes course. There the class was divided into three teams and each team was charged to come up with a team cheer

in sixty seconds or less. Little did we know that the cheer would be used for the remainder of the afternoon and will be forever stuck in our heads. It’s fitting that our team’s cheer started with the word “GO” and ended with both hands in the air accompanied by the sound from a horn on a Model A Ford...ahoooga!



A class member “takes the leap” on the zip line

After a few short teamwork exercises, the teams split up to conquer the ropes course! Some of the excitement was short-lived when our team was sent to the climbing tower, a daunting forty foot tall wooden wall with pegs barely large enough to grab ahold of, nonetheless support the weight of your body while you contemplate your next move. Our teammates encouraged each other as we climbed our way to the top of the wall. Once we made it to the top, we hardly had enough time to catch our breath before we were clipped to the zip line and told to “slide off” the wall whenever ready. I don’t want to speak for the group, but at that time I personally started reminiscing about those life insurance conversations earlier in the day and hoped that the harness, clip and zip line were still in working condition. A brief free fall until the rope was fully extended and caught the zip line was followed by an adrenaline-filled ride to the bottom, where James was waiting to unhook us and place us back on solid ground! The high ropes course was conquered! Ahooga! Next up, the low ropes course.

Contrary to what you might think, the low ropes course seemed to be more difficult than the high ropes course. Keeping together as a team, creative thinking, cooperation, communication, trust and problem-solving all came into play. The first activity was forming a circle and tossing a small ball back and forth between the team members while adhering to strict guidelines set forth by our group leader. Hand-eye coordination and sequence strategy were crucial for this activity and we passed with flying colors. Ok, we had to redo the activity a few times, but we felt good considering one of the other teams kept singing Itsy Bitsy Spider over and over; we later found out why.

Next, our entire team was charged to stand on a set of logs and communicate, whether only through animal sounds (another article in itself if we had the room) or through traditional communication, effectively and efficiently to reorganize our order based on several different variables. I am proud to say that we excelled at this activity and didn’t have to start over a single time.



Communication challenge

I can’t say the same for the next exercise, the helium hula hoop. Each member of the team had to place their index fingers on the bottom of the hula hoop and as a group, lower the hoop to the ground while keeping everybody’s two fingers touching the underside of the hoop at all times. This portion of the ropes course took its toll on our team and after several restarts we finally brought the hoop to the ground.

Luckily, one of our team members asked the million dollar question and we found out that the hoop didn't have to start six feet off of the ground. A foot from the ground was the trick! A few easier exercises finished off our second portion of the ropes course. Ahooga!

Our last stop of the day consisted of three different activities and all three of these demanded that our team work together to succeed. First up was the spider web. Remember that Itsy Bitsy Spider song I talked about earlier? Well, we found out relatively quickly that each team member had to make their way through the spider web without touching the boundaries of the various web holes. If any member of the team touched their respective boundary, the entire team had to sing Itsy Bitsy Spider and start back from the beginning. Some members were able to crouch through their holes, while others had to be lifted up flat and passed through their holes. No matter which route you had, working together was a necessity. As a side note, I will mention that we didn't have to sing the song nearly as much as the first group through the web.



Debriefing the spider web activity

Upon completion of the web, our team had to hoist one of our members in the air to pass a gasket (hula hoop) over the top of the spaceship (telephone pole) and bring the gasket all the way to the ground without touching the spaceship. This was a

relatively painless task until we found out that there was a proper "fitting" for the gasket and we had to lift back over the top of the spaceship, turn it over and lower back to the ground. Just a minor detail that was overlooked in the heat of the moment.

Our last and final activity of the day was the epitome of working together and team building. Each team member had a short piece of PVC pipe that was cut in half, restart or two, we got the hang of it and made short work of the course. Lastly, resembling a gutter. As a team, we had to move three golf balls from one end of the course to a coffee can on the other end, without moving our PVC pipe laterally while the golf balls were in our piece. We could tilt, raise or lower our own piece, but could not move it sideways. Therefore, we had to transfer each ball from one person's PVC pipe to another person's PVC pipe and work our way down the course. A deafening team cheer that echoed throughout the camp let all others know that we successfully mastered the ropes course and our first afternoon of becoming a successful Wedgworth team. We came together, we kept together and we worked together.

After an hour or so of free time, we met back up for dinner and the "Who Are We?" session. Each person from the class was asked to bring one small item to present to the group so that they can learn a little bit more about each other. This was an excellent way to wrap up the day with some old and new friends.

While the day started like every other Monday, it ended as one we'll never forget. Sitting there together that night, we were all humbled and honored to be selected to Class IX of the Wedgworth Leadership Institute and were excited and anxious about what the next day and the rest of the journey would bring.



Team Cheer!



High and low ropes underway



Ready to begin!

Gallivanting in Gainesville *Rod Hollingsworth*



Day 2 started early, meeting with our predetermined small groups to research an assigned quadrant in the city of Gainesville.

We studied

the real-estate environment, community offerings, and general surroundings in order to compose a brief overview of the given area and why it may be attractive to future development opportunities. During Dr. Clouser's "Essentials of a Community or Region" presentation, we presented our reports. Then we broke back up into our small groups to discover what we believed are important attributes defining 'attractive communities'. It was very interesting to notice the difference in opinions per age group within the class and how our findings compared to Money Magazine's "Best Places to Live" checklist.

The class reconvened at the Chamber of Commerce for presentations concerning development plans in Alachua County. Rosemary Fagler of Plum Creek shared that her organization is one of the largest land owners in the nation with 488,000 acres in FL, 65,000 acres of which are in Alachua County. Plum Creek has a planned vision to bring a substantial development opportunity to the area, attracting residential communities and corporate campuses with an open option to cooperatively work with the University of FL and IFAS. After conservation rights and densities are negotiated, this development is expected to span 15,000 – 20,000 acres. Mr. Ed Poppell, Vice President of Business Affairs & Economic Development at the University of Florida Development

Corporation, was our next speaker. Mr. Poppell gave the group insight on *Innovation Square* which is developing into a work, live, and play urban research park. Innovation Square recruits businesses to establish pilot locations, allowing for utilization of the attractive employment pool in the area. Innovation Square is also home to the Innovation Hub at UF. The Innovation Hub enables young companies to utilize shared facilities, access to business expertise, modern laboratories, and access to business and scientific information through an all-inclusive lease "incubation" period.



Rosemary Fagler of Plum Creek

We started the afternoon with lunch at Farm Bureau and a welcome from John Hoblick. John gave us an alumni's perspective of the Wedgworth Leadership Institute and recollected on some of the valuable experiences he gained during Class II. We appreciated Farm Bureau's sponsorship of lunch and John taking time to visit with our class. Ms. Avery Culbertson was our next speaker. Avery's presentation taught us the importance of reflecting on past experiences to gain a more clear understanding and insight to current matters. We learned that our class will translate messages in many different ways. Members may perceive a presentation in one manner, but then after recapping or reflecting, could develop a different opinion. Reflecting in business and personal environments are key factors to

determining positive outcomes. Our first full day ended with a business etiquette and social skills dinner. Dr. Carter had forewarned us to be prompt and on our best behavior for this event. The class was pleasantly surprised to meet Ms. Diann Catlin, a delightful southern belle from Jacksonville, FL. Ms. Catlin entertained the class with her many stories while sharpening up our leadership etiquette. We properly enjoyed dinner and then adjourned.

"To those Whom Much is Given, Much is Expected."

— John F. Kennedy

Dr. Rick Rudd, Professor and Department Chair of Agriculture and Extension Education at Virginia Tech started day 3 of the session. He opened with "To Whom Much is Given, Much is Expected" – JFK. Dr. Rudd reconfirmed that the Wedgworth Leadership Institute Class IX experience is an honor and that the expectations of the program are high. He challenged us with a few questions:

- **What do you hope to learn?**
- **Who do you want to be?**
- **What do you hope to do with the experience?**

The class had a few minutes to document the answers to these questions in the form of a letter to ourselves. We sealed the letter and will open these near graduation in the fall of 2015. Dr. Rudd then spoke on leadership challenges within the agricultural and natural resources industries. We discussed N.I.F.A. (National Institute of Food and Agriculture) and how their support influences the programs surrounding our industry.

Mr. Kevan Lamm (our Class IX Program Coordinator) rounded out the morning session with a presentation on emotional intelligence and its importance in leadership development. Kevan presented that only 7% of retained communication during a speaking event is verbal, with the remaining 93% of content being emotional or non-verbal communication. Body language and the emotional communication style a presenter portrays is critical to the success of any presented topic.

After lunch, Dr. Jack Payne, Senior Vice President of IFAS congratulated and welcomed our class to the program. Dr. Payne explained the importance of leadership within our changing industry and gave us his opinion of the political tactics currently playing out in Washington. Dr. Teri Basler joined us to discuss her focus of revamping agricultural education for the future via a strategy incorporating global thinking. Dr. Basler is heading up the new Challenge 2050 class at UF this fall semester. The class is tasked with developing ideas to feed the world's forecasted population in 2050.

A few interesting statistics were presented by Dr. Basler concerning food waste:

- 30% of food is wasted in underdeveloped countries due to inadequate storage facilities.
- 30% of food is discarded domestically due to food passing the "sell by" date and hence deemed unfit for retail.

Dr. Basler explained that she'd split up her New Challenge 2050 class into small groups, each of which sought to create a business plan to develop a solution to feeding the masses in 2050. These groups prepared 7 minute presentations to present to a break out Wedgworth panel later that afternoon in a "shark tank" environment. The student groups presented their plans and then the class engaged in a 7 minute question and answer window for each project. After hearing all the group's plans and Q&A, our class voted and awarded a winner. This was a unique experience for all involved. Our class gained an appreciation for the program and the student's efforts.



Senior VP of IFAS Dr. Jack Payne



Challenge 2050 Presentations

Multiple Perspectives *Jennifer Parrish*



Days 4 and 5 of Seminar I were about personalities, families, and reflection. Day 4 was an exciting day for many of us who were reunited with our significant others. We started the morning with individual head shots and a group shot on the steps of the Reitz Union. Generally the term is "herding cats" but I have to say that

I think we did a pretty good job getting it all done in a timely manner! After pictures we were treated to an excellent presentation by Dr. Alexa Lamm. She spoke to us on "The Role and Importance of Opinion Leaders in Agriculture and Natural Resources." Prior to our first seminar, Class IX was emailed a link to an evaluation we took online. Dr. Lamm explained that the findings of this evaluation would determine whether we are considered Seekers or Engagers in the way we gather and interpret information. I turned out to be a seeker which in short means that I "seek out information from a variety of sources before making critical judgments."

Engagers "enjoy engaging in conversations that requires quick critical thinking." This was the start of the multiple personality-type tests we took during Seminar I. Class IX



Ready for another day of leadership programming

enjoyed the findings so much that they asked that the test be given to their significant others as well! In addition to the evaluation, Dr. Lamm also used interactive clickers with her presentation. Class IX participants were able to use the clickers to respond to questions about leadership and see where we all fell anonymously. It was really enlightening to see where we all agreed as well as where we had some difference of opinion. After Dr. Lamm's presentation Hannah took a moment with us to reflect on the week. Overwhelmingly Class IX members are excited about our future with this program!

After welcoming our significant others and a casual lunch, we had our first presentation with Dr. Ricky Telg on our "True Colors". I felt that this evaluation rang very true for my husband (Orange > Green > Blue > Gold) and I (Blue > Orange > Gold > Green). It was illuminating to dig deeper into our strengths and differences as a couple. It started a lot of great conversations with not only

each other, but all the other participants and their significant others! Following Dr. Telg, Ms. Christy Chiarelli spoke on developing personal mission statements. She presented some very thought provoking questions related to what you love, aspiring qualities you see in others and how you want to be remembered. Her presentation made me and many others think really hard about what we want out of life and what you want to give to others. Thursday ended with a fantastic dinner hosted by Mr. Roger Scarborough and the Farm Credit of Florida staff at the Alachua office. As a member of the Farm Credit of Central Florida staff, it was wonderful to see such a generous and hospitable evening presented by our sister company. Many thanks for all of their hard work!! As dinner was wrapping up Kevan helped present a slide show where all of the Class IX participants were able to introduce our families. It was great to get a glimpse into everyone's personal lives and of course show off our own!

Friday morning we were back to it with Dr. Telg to review our Myers-Briggs Type Indicator reports. Everyone really seemed to enjoy this portion of the seminar. Dr. Telg reviewed the details about all of the indicators and then shared with us our personal reports. After we discovered where we fell, Dr. Telg broke everyone up into groups per their respective indicators. My fellow ENFJ's and I had a great time sharing and commiserating our strengths and areas of growth. It was really neat to be with others like you and to see how likeminded we were when it came to our likes and dislikes. I know my husband really enjoyed getting to know his fellow INTJ's as well.

Knowing more about personality types can really help both personally and professionally. It just helps you be more aware of the differences in others and how you should consider your approach with them. It was an action packed week, but a great one! I so enjoyed getting to know my fellow class members, speakers and Wedgworth staff! I know I speak for the rest of the class when I say that I cannot wait to see where this journey takes us!



Dr. Ricky Telg presenting on True Colors



MBTI Small Groups



Wedgworth Leadership Institute
Class IX
Seminar 2

Miami/Homestead
South Florida





It is both an honor and a pleasure to be working with the Wedgworth Leadership Institute. I have had the opportunity to know Dr.

Carter for a number of years prior to taking on the Program Coordinator role and have always felt like it is not only an important program, but one that is absolutely critical. As issues such as food insecurity and public misunderstanding become the norm in our society, a group of prepared, confident, and capable opinion leaders representing the agricultural and natural resource industries here in Florida is incredibly powerful.

During seminar one I was able to observe the transformation from 29 individuals to into a single class. Although this was just a first step of

many on the way towards establishing a class identity I'm excited to see how future challenges and opportunities are addressed and overcome by this group of amazing individuals.

During the first seminar there were opportunities to learn about what makes a community as well as the responsibilities we all have to make great communities. We then challenged ourselves to think about the future and how we are going to address the global issues we will face over the next 50 years. To help prepare us for this undertaking we learned about our personalities and how this influences the unique way we all experience life.

I am very excited to continue to learn with this group of leaders. The foundation that seminar one has established will be a great framework upon which to build during future seminars and leadership experiences.

Erin Archey
Ben Butler
Joshua Craft
Josh Culpepper
Matthew Curran
Jerry Davis
Mallory Dimmitt
Tavis Douglass
John Evans
Lee Ann Fisch
Noah Handley
Jennifer Hodges
Rod Hollingsworth
Justin Hood
Danny Johns

Brittany Lee
David Lively
Duane Mathis
Jennifer Parrish
Brian Patterson
April Porter
David Register
Emma Reynolds
Daniel Scott
Scott Smith
Lauren Trad
Baxter Troutman
Frank Wells
Leigh Ann Wynn

