



WANDERLUST 2010

*Wanderlust 2010 Sold Out
at The Naples Beach Hotel
& Golf Club*

More than 400 guests felt the playful vibe of Wanderlust and its CANDY LAND board game theme on April 14 at The Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Club. The Resort & Hospitality Management and the Professional Golf Management programs had another successful gala event raising more than \$230,000. Wanderlust is the biggest fundraising event for FGCU's Resort & Hospitality Management Program and is hosted by Collier and Lee counties' major resorts and other hospitality partners. Guests bid on live and silent auction travel and hospitality packages, played a lively Heads or Tails game, entered a donation Fishbowl activity, purchased tickets to win a wine raffle, and enjoyed an exquisite meal, beginning with an artisan salad and ending with an inimitable box of Norman Love's Chocolates. The largest bid of the evening was \$17,000 for a seven-night voyage on The World by ResidenSea, an ultra-luxury ship that is home to millionaires. During the evening's live auction, other high-bid auction items included a Napa wine adventure for five nights auctioned for \$5,500; a trip to Hawaii for nine nights auctioned off for \$6,000; and a custom jewelry piece by renowned Designer Mark Loren was auctioned for \$6,500. Students in the RHM program had a unique opportunity for real-life training in resort and hospitality management that benefits their careers, our economy in Southwest Florida, and tourism throughout the United States. Wanderlust is just one of many ways students gain experience to jump-start their careers.

We are very grateful to Ron Albeit and Brian Holly, 2010 Wanderlust co-chairs and long-time



RHM Advisory Board members. They undertook year-long leadership roles to make the event a success. The tireless efforts of the more than 85 RHM/PGM students, Dr. Scott Lee, all the Wanderlust committee members, Amy Gravina and all of the Gravina, Smith, Matte & Arnold Marketing and PR team, the RHM board, and many others are also much appreciated. Thank you to all the organizations that bought sponsor tables.



A special thank you goes out to the entire team at The Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Club. We very much appreciate your hosting Wanderlust 2010 at your beautiful property.

Profile on New PGM Director

Tara McKenna literally grew up at a country club in Upstate New York (outside of Albany) from 5 years of age. Her first job was at the club in which she grew up—Normanside Country Club. She has spent the majority of her professional career in New England, mostly Massachusetts and yes.... she is a Red Sox and Patriots fan.

Attending James Madison University in Virginia, Tara played on the women's golf team for four years and graduated magna cum laude with a B.S. in Psychology. Graduate studies led her further south to University of North Carolina, Greensboro for an M.S. in Exercise and Sport Science, with a concentration Sport Psychology. As a graduate student, Tara played an instrumental role in igniting the new Division I women's golf team as their first coach after ten years of dormancy. She played and won several amateur events in the northeast during the sum-

mers and turned professional in 1991 by registering with the PGA of America.

Professionally, Tara holds a "Class A" in the PGA of America and LPGA Teaching and Club Professional Division—an honor held by less than 900 female professionals in the country. She worked at two distinctive, private 18-hole Country Clubs on Cape Cod and near Boston before landing the job as Head Professional of Tatnuck Country Club in Worcester, MA from 2003 to 2009. She owned and managed a successful golf shop that won her Merchandiser of the Year for the Northeast section of the LPGA T& CP in 2005.

One of the few women who compete in the New England PGA Section, Ms. McKenna is a very active player in section events and most recently served on the 2009 Tournament Committee. She hopes to remain

similarly active in the Southwest Chapter of the South Florida PGA, While Head Professional, Tara served as adjunct faculty for Anna Maria College (Paxton, MA). A fitness buff of sorts, she holds a Level I accreditation as a TPI (Titleist Performance Institute), Certified Golf Fitness Instructor, and occasionally participates in Sprint distance Triathlons when the training schedule permits. We thank the members of the search committee for all their efforts with regard to the selection of Tara.



Tara McKenna

Club Managers Association of America

The student chapter now has more than 20 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 Parties in San Diego

Members of the FGCU student colony of the Club Managers Association of America attended the annual CMAA conference in San Diego. Beyond being a first-rate conference with excellent presenters, the students benefited from an environment of collegiality and networking. All of them ended up with interviews with clubs for summer internships in exciting places like New York's Hamptons by networking/interviewing at the conference. Thank you to Tom Noyes, Al Kinkle, and Erin Herzog Bisceglia for seeing to it that we were invited to the Everglades Chapter dinner.

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. We thank George Hunt for his continued support of our students. In addition, we also appreciate the efforts of the CMAA Managing Director, Erin Herzog Bisceglia, who has been supportive of our soon-to-be student chapter.

Thank you to the many Southwest Florida resort, hospitality, and club facilities for supporting our students during their spring 2010 field experiences/internships.



Professional Association Recognizes Karen Royal

Karen Royal, executive secretary to Dr. Sherie Brezina, was recently awarded the 2010 Administrative Professional of the Year issued by the Fort Myers chapter of the International Association of Administrative Professionals.

RHM Student Awarded Scholarship

R. Megan Hough was recently awarded a \$1000 scholarship through Maidstone Country Club, East Hampton, NY. Maidstone is a country club that is also involved with the Club Managers Association of America. She was offered that internship at last year's CMAA conference. The scholarship required that she (and her organization) be affiliated with CMAA, in school, and in the hospitality field. The scholarship is endowed by the Metropolitan Club Foundation CMAA, founded in 1923.

Adjunct Professor Spotlight: Hugh Jones



Hugh Jones

Mr. Hugh Jones has been in the spa & fitness industry for more than 21 years and has successfully directed spa programs in several 5-star hotels, resorts, and planned communities. He began his career in 1981 at the world famous spa at Palm-Aire, Pompano Beach, Florida. Hugh later moved to the Bonaventure InterContinental Hotel & Spa in Fort Lauderdale, where he was recruited by Turnberry Isle Yacht & Country Club in Aventura, and was named "Manager of the Year". During that time, Turnberry was rated "Number 1 resort in the U.S." by Lodging and Hospitality. As an internationally known spa consultant over the years, he has assisted full service spas at resorts and hotels, country clubs, medical facilities, and day spas. He teaches Spa Management & Operations and Spa Wellness & Healthy Cuisines for RHM program. We are thrilled to have Mr. Jones as part of our teaching team!

Sugden Hall Completion

Phase II of Sugden construction is almost completed. The state-of-the-art spa learning laboratory is finished and the Wine Technology Laboratory & Demonstration Kitchen, Ballroom, and Instructional Kitchen are expected to be completed in May by the end of 2010.

Editor: Dr. George Alexakis

We Want to Hear from You!

If you are interested in submitting articles for future newsletters, contact Dr. George Alexakis at galexaki@fgcu.edu or 239 590 7493.

Division of Resort & Hospitality Management
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