

[PHOTO ATTACHMENT]

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Harbor Branch Foundation Names Guest of Honor for 3rd Annual “Love Your Lagoon” Dinner

FORT PIERCE, Fla. (December 11, 2013) – The Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute Foundation (HBOIF) has announced Alma Lee Loy as the guest of honor for the third annual “Love Your Lagoon” dinner on Friday, Feb. 7, 2014 at 6 p.m. at FAU’s Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute (HBOI), 5600 US 1 North, in Fort Pierce. Proceeds from the event will support the annual Indian River Lagoon Symposium and benefit scientific research on the lagoon, conducted by FAU Harbor Branch.

“I am thankful for the honor of joining with FAU’s Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute,” said Loy. “Their continuing discoveries bring new paths to a better life for all mankind.”

Loy is a successful business owner, public servant and steward of community organizations. Her life history of service is vast -- founder of Alma Lee’s Children’s Clothing Store in Vero Beach, the first female elected to the Indian River Board of County Commissioners and one of the first women in the state to be elected chair of a county commission. Loy served as the president of the Indian River County Chamber of Commerce as well as the Indian River Land Trust, was a founding member and president of the county’s United Way and is a former member of the IRSC Foundation Board of Directors. Loy was recognized in 1995 by the Indian River County Chamber of Commerce with the establishment of the Alma Lee Loy Community Service Award, and more recently with the naming of the Alma Lee Loy Chamber of Commerce Building honoring her decades of leadership in business and community organizations. In 2012, local leaders renamed the 17th Street Bridge in Vero Beach in her honor. Loy was selected by the HBOIF board of directors to serve as this year’s guest of honor because of her long-standing role in local leadership and commitment to the environment and the Indian River Lagoon.

Major sponsors for this year’s dinner and IRL Symposium include MANGROVE SPONSOR: PNC Bank, SEAGRASS SPONSORS: Joe and Jennifer Duke, OYSTER SPONSORS: Florida Atlantic University, John and Marilyn McConnell, Jr., Michael and Marie

O'Reilly; DOLPHIN SPONSORS: Evans Properties, Inc., Katha Kissman, Ethel K. Marran and The Ethel Kennedy Foundation, Ed Lippisch and Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch, Michael & Misty Minton and the Law Firm of Dean, Mead, Minton and Zwemer, Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers, and J.J. Taylor Companies, Inc. MANATEE SPONSORS: The Atlanta Consulting Group, AT&T, Mrs. Jean Geddes, Marilyn C. Link, William J. and Laurie Stewart, Esq., Southeastern Printing, Stuart Magazine, Michael and Carol Toner, and Wells Fargo. SEAHORSE SPONSORS: Adams Ranch, Aesthetic Dentistry of Palm City, Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines & Frank CPA, C. Amos Bussmann and Sea Technology Magazine, Florida Power & Light Company, Marine Bank & Trust, Tom and Sherry Plymale, Kevin & Marsha Powers, Robert Stilley and The Honorable MaryLynn Magar, and John and Nan Warner.

HBOIF is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization whose mission supports Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute, a research institute of Florida Atlantic University.

For more information, contact Colleen Brennan at 772-466-9876 ext. 222 or cbrennan@hboifoundation.org.

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About Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute Foundation

The mission of Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute Foundation, Inc., is to support Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute, a research institute of Florida Atlantic University. Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute Foundation (HBOIF) supports marine science and engineering research and education by funding HBOIF-FAU efforts to advance understanding of oceans and coastal areas through exploration and scientific inquiry. HBOIF is a 501(c) 3 organization and a Direct-Support Organization (DSO) of Florida Atlantic University benefitting Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute.

About Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute:

Founded in 1971, Florida Atlantic University's Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute is a research community of marine scientists, engineers, educators and other professionals focused on Ocean Science for a Better World. The institute drives innovation in ocean engineering, at-sea operations, drug discovery and biotechnology from the oceans, coastal ecology and conservation, marine mammal research and conservation, aquaculture, ocean observing systems and marine education. For more information, visit www.fau.edu/hboi.

About Florida Atlantic University:

Florida Atlantic University, established in 1961, officially opened its doors in 1964 as the fifth public university in Florida. Today, the University, with an annual economic impact of \$6.3 billion, serves more than 30,000 undergraduate and graduate students at sites throughout its six-county service region in southeast Florida. FAU's world-class teaching and research faculty serves students through 10 colleges: the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters, the College of Business, the College for Design and Social Inquiry, the College of Education, the College of Engineering and Computer Science, the Graduate College, the Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College, the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine, the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing and the Charles E. Schmidt College of Science. FAU is ranked as a High Research Activity institution by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. The University is placing special focus on the rapid development of three signature themes – marine and coastal issues, biotechnology and contemporary societal challenges – which provide opportunities for faculty and students to build upon FAU's existing strengths in research and scholarship. For more information, visit www.fau.edu.

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