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3rd Annual “Love Your Lagoon” Dinner a Success

FORT PIERCE, Fla. (February 14, 2014) – The third time was a charm for the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute Foundation’s (HBOIF) annual “Love Your Lagoon” dinner. This year, organizers doubled sponsorships and boosted ticket sales by 35 percent, raising \$81,000 in critical funding to benefit FAU Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute’s (HBOI) Indian River Lagoon Observatory research and outreach efforts. This year’s proceeds were a 53 percent increase over last year’s numbers.

A record 300+ people attended the dinner that celebrated lagoon research and this year’s guest of honor, Alma Lee Loy, selected by the HBOIF Board of Directors for her long-standing role in local leadership and commitment to the environment and the Indian River Lagoon. Proceeds from the dinner help to underwrite events including the recent Indian River Lagoon Symposium, Public Meeting on Lagoon Health and the “Our Global Estuary” national workshop regarding estuarine observatories held at HBOI.

This year’s sponsors included: PNC Bank, Joe and Jennifer Duke, Jim and Gretchen Johnson, Florida Atlantic University, John N. and Marilyn McConnell, Jr., Michael and Marie O’Reilly, 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, J.J. Taylor Companies, Inc., Atlanta Consulting Group, AT&T, Jean Geddes, Marilyn C. Link, William J. and Laurie Stewart, Esq., Southeastern Printing, Stuart Magazine, Michael and Carol Toner, Wells Fargo, Adams Ranch, Aesthetic Dentistry of Palm City, Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines & Frank, C. Amos Bussmann and Sea Technology Magazine, Florida Power & Light Company, Marine Bank & Trust, Hach Hydromet, Kevin & Marsha Powers, Tom and Sherry Plymale, Mr. Robert Stilley and The Honorable MaryLynn Magar, John and Nan Warner.

For more information on the Love Your Lagoon dinner, call 772-466-9876 ext. 224 or visit www.indianriverlagoon.org. For more information on HBOI, contact Carin Campbell Smith at 772-242-2230 or carinsmith@fau.edu

About Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute:

Founded in 1971, Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute at Florida Atlantic University 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.hboi.fau.edu.

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.