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## **FAU Harbor Branch Foundation Announces Guest of Honor for Second Annual ‘Love Your Lagoon’ Dinner to Benefit Indian River Lagoon Research**

**FORT PIERCE, FL (December 5, 2012)** – FAU Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute Foundation (HBOIF) has announced Alto “Bud” Adams Jr. as the guest of honor for the second annual “Love Your Lagoon” dinner on Friday, Feb. 8, 2013 at 6 p.m. at the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute (HBOI), 5600 US 1 North, in Fort Pierce. Proceeds from the event will support HBOI’s research of the lagoon.

“In order to alleviate the flooding and drought cycle, Adams Ranch builds a system of reservoirs connected by canals with risers to retain the water,” said Adams. “We store billions of gallons of water in the reservoirs, the canals and pastures, which helps to ensure the health and wellbeing of the Indian River Lagoon.”

Adams is best known for presiding over Adams Ranch, Inc., a 40,000-acre cattle ranch spanning St. Lucie, Okeechobee and Osceola counties. The ranch helps to preserve rivers, swamps, marshes, prairies, wooded areas and a vast array of wildlife. He was selected by the HBOIF board of directors to serve as this year’s guest of honor because of his leadership in utilizing best practices in agriculture, greatly benefitting the lagoon.

The Indian River Lagoon is the most biologically diverse estuary in North America. Like estuaries and coastal waters throughout the world, the lagoon faces mounting threats related to increasing population and economic pressures.

The “Love Your Lagoon” dinner will be held waterside, at HBOI’s newly-constructed, open-air plaza. Guests will enjoy cocktails and music under the stars, while savoring the flavors of sustainably sourced seafood and local produce. Tickets are \$125 per person and sponsorship opportunities are still available.

Proceeds from the dinner will also support the second annual Indian River Lagoon Symposium and Forum on Lagoon Health, which will be held the same week in Harbor Branch’s Johnson Education Center on Thursday, February 7 and Friday, February 8, 2013.

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 about the dinner and other events, contact Janet Alford at 772-466-9876, [jmalford@hboifoundation.org](mailto:jmalford@hboifoundation.org) or visit [www.indianriverlagoon.org](http://www.indianriverlagoon.org).

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**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](http://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](http://www.fau.edu).*