

August 24, 2019

Florida Sea Grant community,

Over the past few months I have had the pleasure of working with the most wonderful and productive group of extension scientists, researchers and agents that are driven to help Florida's coastal communities and environment. I have been humbled by witnessing the mobilization of the agents and specialists in their desire to honor Dr. Havens, which started on day 1. Certainly, trying to move on in the wake of Dr. Haven's passing has been challenging, but it has also provided inspiration and a sense of purpose.

As a result, and in memoriam and legacy, the Florida Sea Grant (FSG) family seeks to provide support to continue and enhance research and student training in the general field of water quality.

Here is our plan:

- Phase I: Show a grass roots commitment providing sufficient support to open a pre-endowment fund
- Phase II: Seek matching funds from FSG faculty and staff
- Phase III: Appeal to the broader FSG network to supplement the campaign to achieve support for a sustained student-focused research program on water quality, with an ultimate goal of having a "Karl Havens Excellence Fund"

We seek to achieve this goal by November 19, 2019, which is the first day of our site review. In support of this goal, we will also be holding a silent auction of some of Dr. Havens' art and photos. Please check back as we upload the information.

In closing, while I have not had the chance to speak with each of you personally, your role in our program comes up often as I've quickly learned the secret to the Sea Grant Programs – it's the network and the collaboration. That spirit is infectious and your support in our efforts to strengthen our research program and workforce development will help us move into a next phase of programming.

Thank you for your continued support and interest in our program,

Sherry Larkin

Interim FSG Director