



**2012 OABA Educational Trust**  
**“Golf for Scholarships”**

**August 15, 2012**

**2012 GOLF FOR SCHOLARSHIPS COMMITTEE**

**Elliott Doyle, Chairman, Ag States Group**

**Tim Bailey, A & L Great Lakes Laboratories, Inc.**

**John Bowen, Cameron Chemicals, Inc.**

**David Case, Bayer CropScience**

**Steve Fort, Crop Production Services**

**Grant Gates, Morral Companies, LLC**

**Alvin King, King Feed & Supply, Inc.**

**John Oesch, Crop Production Services**

**Jim Pullins, INTX Microbials, LLC**

**Mike Stricker, Trupointe Cooperative, Inc.**

**Ken Wannemacher, Ag States Group**

**Elliott Ward, ABIS/J.H. Ward Agency**

**Mike Zawisza, Elevator Services & Storage, Inc.**



**Gary King**  
**“Honoree”**

Ohio AgriBusiness Association  
2012 Educational Trust  
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Gary King

“Honoree”

Unlike most of the members of the Ohio Agribusiness Association, Gary King didn't grow up in the farming industry, unless you count the ¼ acre of raspberries raised on what his father called “the back forty” as farming. Incidentally, the entire “farm” consisted of maybe an acre and a half in the suburbs of Lansing, MI. Much of Gary's time was spent figuring out how he could get away from the house to play in a pickup game of baseball, basketball, football or hockey at the pond (in the winter.)

Apparently his interest in athletics paid off, as he lettered ten times in high school, played on state championship teams in football and wrestling and was a two time individual state champion in wrestling. In addition, he ranked 7<sup>th</sup> academically in a graduating class of over 600. While still in high school, Gary worked part time for a very exclusive sporting goods store in Lansing, where he worked while at Michigan State University and became the store's Manager & Buyer for three years following college.

Out of high school, he accepted an athletic / academic scholarship to wrestle for Michigan State University where he was a Big Ten champion and a member of a NCAA Runner up wrestling team. He was an alternate on the 1960 Olympic wrestling team and would have gone to Rome, Italy, had he not dislocated his elbow during training. Academically he dabbled with Electrical Engineering, Philosophy and Landscape Architecture, before deciding to major in Business Administration.

After the sporting goods store, mentioned above, was sold to a chain, Gary laid concrete blocks for a masonry contractor, worked as a dispatcher for a concrete and supply company and then sold commercial real-estate before finally being introduced to the agribusiness world when the Michigan Millers Mutual Insurance Company hired him as a Regional Account Manager in their Mill and Elevator Division. He was with Michigan Millers for over nine years and earned the designations of Certified Property and Casualty Underwriter and Certified Life Underwriter.

In 1976 a group of five large agricultural cooperatives in the “Thumb” area of Michigan asked Gary to join them as their Risk Manager / Personnel Director. He held this position for eight years before being appointed to the position of Executive Director of the Michigan Agri-Business Association where he remained for seven years. He was instrumental in combining several segments of the agribusiness industry into one association during his tenure there.

Gary joined the Ohio AgriBusiness Association in May 1990 where he remained its President and CEO until his recent retirement October 26, 2011. Not unlike Michigan, Gary was instrumental in merging several agribusiness associations into one mega association serving the needs of a major segment of Ohio's agribusiness industry. Like George Greenleaf, (a man whom Gary considers his mentor) Gary continued to lead the charge to intensify the partnership between academics and industry-a goal he sincerely believes both have to accomplish if agribusiness is to progress and keep pace with world growth and emerging technology.

Gary has served on numerous committees, advisory groups and task forces for Clark State Community College, OSU Agricultural Technical Institute, Owens Community College and The Ohio State University. On the national level he was part of two missions with The Ohio State University Department of Agricultural, Environmental and Development Economics in an effort to encourage agricultural relationships with Mexico. He has served as President of the Agricultural Association Executives Council (a national association for state agribusiness associations) and as president of the Ohio Society of Association Executives. Gary is also the recipient of The Ohio State University Meritorious Award for his cooperative efforts with the university.

Gary considers it an act of fate he became involved with agriculture in that he had no agricultural ties or interest during his youth. At this time, however, he cannot imagine working in any other industry. It is one of the fundamental and basic of all industries ---- that of providing food. He feels we are only on the threshold of a bio-genetic and technological evolution such as the world has never seen. He is proud to have played a small role in it!

Since retirement, Gary and his wife Trisch have relocated permanently to Florida. They are in the process of building a new home in the Leesburg area. If you know Gary, you know he has already made several new friends, but says he will always remember the ones he has made in Ohio over the past twenty one years!

Please join us as we honor **Gary King**, an integral part of the Ohio AgriBusiness Association's history.