



HOWARD BRITT
FOUNDER & PRESIDENT
PREMIERE SHOW GROUP

Howard Britt is the founder, president and owner of the Premiere Show Group; an event planning group located in Winter Springs, Florida. Premiere is most notably recognized as the foremost producer of trade shows for professionals within the beauty industry. What initially started as a one-exhibitor event held in a hotel lobby with 300 attendees has matured into the Premiere Orlando International Beauty Event featuring over a quarter million square feet of exhibit space - now attracting well over 48,000 attendees to Central Florida. Premiere Orlando is renowned as the leading beauty event world-wide and was ranked 84 in the Gold 100 Shows by Trade Show Executive. In 2010 Premiere Orlando worked with 25 different hotels accounting for over 13,470 room nights sold.

Howard is originally from Dayton, OH and started to call the sunshine state his home in 1989. Prior to starting Premiere Show Group, he worked for a beauty product distributor for 10 years. This experience provided invaluable insight and professional knowledge of the beauty industry - aiding in the production of a trade show bringing conventioners to Orlando for an educational event. He also spent some time in the restaurant business in both Orlando and the Naples area. This provided valuable experience in the service industry.

Howard Britt
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Catherine Ojeda Figueroa
Owner
Redi Pedi Cab Company

Catherine Ojeda Figueroa is a graduate of Bethune-Cookman University where she attended on a cross-country running scholarship and obtained a B.S. degree in Accounting. In June 2006, she used her athletic skills and accounting background to pursue a business opportunity. The Redi Pedi Cab Company began operations with just 2 drivers and 3 pedicabs offering short-haul transportation and outdoor advertising via pedicabs, also known as rickshaws or bicycle taxis on International Drive in Orlando, Florida. She worked with the Cities of Orlando and Gainesville to enact a non-motorized vehicle for hire ordinance to ensure the safe and professional operations of bicycle taxis. Redi Pedi Cab Company has also secured permits and contracts with establishments, such as the Orange County Convention Center, Pointe Orlando, the Altamonte Mall, and the Daytona International Speedway.

Catherine Ojeda Figueroa

Owner

Redi Pedi Cab Company

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DOUG GEHRET
SECRETARY
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
CENTRAL FLORIDA HOTEL AND LODGING ASSOCIATION

Doug Gehret is the General Manager of the Hilton Orlando, Orlando's newest hotel to be connected to the Orange County Convention Center. Since arriving in Orlando, he has become involved in the hotel community by becoming a member of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the Central Florida Hotel and Lodging Association (CFHLA) and he is active on the CFHLA Governmental Affairs Committee. Doug was recently appointed to join the Orlando Tourist Development Council and is a member of the International Drive Executive Transportation Committee.

Doug's experience encompasses 17 years with Hilton Hotel Corporation. Prior to opening the Hilton Orlando, Doug opened and spent the next six years as the General Manager of the 800 room Hilton Austin. He was very involved in the Austin community having served on the Board of Directors of seven business and charitable organizations and held a two year term as President of the Austin Hotel and Lodging Association.

He also spent nine years at the famed Waldorf=Astoria Hotel in New York and two years at the luxurious Hilton Short Hills in Short Hills, New Jersey. He is a member of the Waldorf=Astoria Distinguished Alumni.

Doug holds a degree in Hotel, Restaurant and Institutional Management from Penn State University.

Doug Gehret
General Manager
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Johnny Rivers

Johnny Rivers, an award-winning and internationally acclaimed entrepreneur whose mission focuses on developing local economies, creating social improvements, and positively impacting global communities.

For more than 35 years Johnny Rivers has served in the hospitality industry at the highest levels including becoming Disney's Hospitality Corporate Executive Chef in 1980. Over his more than 25 years with Disney Rivers has opened more than 42 hotel and entertainment complexes, 280 restaurants and 5 theme parks including, Magic Kingdom, Epcot, Disney-MGM Studios, Tokyo Disneyland, and Euro Disney.

Johnny Rivers regularly consults with various hospitality companies in the United States, Europe, Africa, and Asia. He has also worked and partnered with organizations such as Levy Brothers, Darden Group, American Dietetic Association, National Cancer Institute, Florida Hospital, Euro-American Advisors, Belz Group, OTG Management Group in OIA and JFK Airports.

Mr. Rivers has been featured in newspapers and magazines including, *Time*, *Redbook*, and *Southern Living* among countless others. His voice has been heard on radio nationwide and he has appeared on many network television programs such as *Oprah*, *Good Morning America*, *Live with Regis and Kathy Lee*, and *The Today Show with Bryant Gumble*.

His quest for knowledge led him to destinations on every continent. He worked in over 35 countries where he gained the respect of his peers worldwide. Rivers has been involved in projects for current US President Barack Obama, former US Presidents Bush, Clinton, Reagan, Carter, and Ford, South African President Nelson Mandela, royalty, dignitaries, countless celebrities, and top business executives throughout the world.

Among Rivers' prized collection of honors are the 2009 US Congressional Recognition of Outstanding and Invaluable Service to the Community and the 2004 Businessman of the Year recognition from former President of the US, George W. Bush. The epitome of his achievements is the honorable Doctorate Degree presented to him by Johnson & Wales University in 1995.

Empowerment has been the forefront of Rivers' commitment in enhancing the communities he is present in. Apart from his current humanitarian effort in Africa, he has twice co-chaired the Info World Summit in South Africa and participated in the first World Cooks Tour for Hunger in Johannesburg in 1993.

As of today, Rivers heads Inglur, a company that owns a USDA Plant in Central Florida (USA), numerous restaurants, lounges, and retail outlets throughout the US, mining concessions in Africa, infrastructure improvement in Saudi Arabia, and has an array of additional partnerships, development and consulting projects internationally. Along with these, his present humanitarian effort in Bas-Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo is attracting attention from neighboring regions and improving the lives of local individuals and families. Johnny Rivers' motto in life is,

“Good health begins by thinking good thoughts.”

Johnny Rivers’ dedication to his community is exemplified by his service and continued interaction with a number of local organizations. Among some of the organizations he is involved with:

- 2005 - 2011 United Arts Board Member
- 2004 - 2011 United Negro College Fund Board Member
- 2008 - 2010 Boy Scouts Of America Board Member
- 2007 - 2008 Chairman of the Orange County Community Development Advisory (Board appointment by Richard Crotty, Orange County Mayor)
- 2006 - 2008 President of Preserve Eatonville Community Executive Board
- 2005 - 2008 Co-Chair of the Orange County Community Development Advisory (Board appointment by Richard Crotty, Orange County Mayor)
- 2005 - 2007 Florida Hospital Women & Children for Cancer Advisory Counselor
- 2004 - 2007 Florida Hospital Foundation Advisory Counselor
- 2004 - 2005 National Republican Congressional Committee Advisory Counselor
- 2002 - 2005 Mayor Richard Crotty’s Re-Election Host Committee
- 2004 Bethune-Cookman College Visionary Committee Advisory Counselor
- 2000 - 2004 Board of Governors, Orlando Regional Chamber
- 2001 - 2003 Y.M.C.A. Advisory Counselor
- 1999 - 2001 Small Business Council (under President Clinton)
- 2000 American Culinary Federation – Board of Directors

Johnny Rivers’ Media Appearances

Television

Good Morning America
The Today Show with Bryant Gumbel
Oprah
Live with Regis and Kathy Lee
Walt Disney World Syndicate - Casual Cooking with Johnny Rivers
Universal Studios Syndicate - American Health Network
Good Morning South Africa
Numerous Local Television News and Variety Shows

Feature Articles

Better Homes & Garden
Southern Living
Red Book
Ebony
Jet
Restaurant News
Florida Magazine
Food Arts
Time Magazine
Bon Appétit
Restaurant Hospitality
Chef Magazine
EM Magazine
Food Art
Numerous Newspaper Articles
Zagat Magazine
Restaurant Forum
Orlando Sentinel
Orlando Business Journal
Orlando Magazine
Orlando Leisure
Travel Host
The National Culinary Review
I Love Orlando

Consultant and Developer for:

Ohio Commission on Minority Health
Cornell University
National Council of Negro Women
Johnson & Wales University
National Restaurant Association
Florida A & M University
American Dietetic Association
American Culinary Federation
One Hundred Black Men of Sonoma County
United Negro College Fund
National Cancer Institute
South African Hostex
Puerto Rico Hotel & Tourism Association
Caribbean Hotel Association
Life Style with Annette Morris
Darden Restaurant Group
Levy Restaurants
Link Association
Florida Hospital
In-flight Food Catering
Celebration City
Walt Disney World
Galaxy Food
Tyson Foods
Penny Hardway
Congressional Caucus
Congressional Black Caucus
Trinity Services Group
Single Source, Inc.
Compass Group
Euro-American Advisors
Church Street Station
Bob Marley Family
The Royal Caribbean Cruise Line
The Barbados Hotel & Tourism Association
Opportunity Knocks
The Belz Group
Isaac Hayes Restaurant & Nightclub
Prime Minister’s Steakhouse
OTG Management



**GARY C. SAIN
PRESIDENT & CEO
VISIT ORLANDO**

Gary C. Sain is president and CEO of Visit Orlando where he is responsible for leading the organization that markets and sells the Orlando area as the #1 family destination in the world and one of the top meetings destination in America.

Sain is a leading figure in the travel, tourism and hospitality industry and is frequently seen in the media touting the benefits of travel and the industry's importance to the economy as a vehicle for economic development and prosperity. He has been recognized for his leadership as one of the 25 most powerful people, forces or trends in the meetings industry by *MeetingNews* magazine (2007 and 2008); as Orlando's most influential tourism executive by *Orlando Business Journal* (2008) and as one of the 50 most prominent people in Orlando by *Orlando Magazine* (2008, 2009, 2010).

He plays a significant role in industry affairs as a member of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the U.S. Travel Association (USTA). He sits on the Board of Directors of Visit Florida, the Board of Trustees for Destination Marketing Association International (DMAI); Hospitality Sales & Marketing Association International (HSMIAI); and the Central Florida Hotel & Lodging Association (CFHLA); International Association of Exhibitions and Events (IAEE); and is a member of the Professional Convention Management Association (PCMA); Meetings Professional International (MPI) and American Society of Association Executives.

Sain also devotes a large portion of his time and energy to civic and community affairs serving on the advisory council of the University of Central Florida's Rosen College of Hospitality Management; and the Board of Directors for Florida Citrus Sports, Salvation Army, United Arts of Central Florida, and Central Florida Boy Scouts of America.

Sain received a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Business Administration and a minor in Marketing from Davis and Elkins College in Elkins, W. Va. He and his wife, Pamela, have two grown daughters and reside in Maitland, Fla.



Dan Sherfield

VP, Human Resources

Bags Inc

Dan Sherfield is the VP of Human Resources at Bags Inc where he began working for owner Craig Mateer 15 years ago valet parking cars at Church Street Station. While attending Valencia Community College Dan continued to take on more responsibility with the parking company and in 2001 began working with Craig on integrating an innovative solution to provide airline check-in services from hotels in Central Florida. When Dan started with the company there were less than 100 employees and since the opening of the Bags Inc remote airline check-in product in 2003 the company has grown into numerous service industries including Hotel, Cruise, Convention and Aviation. Bags Inc is now part of the Plus Services brand and has contracts in over 200 airports and currently employs thousands of service professionals and independent contractors. Working from the bottom up Dan became the VP of Operations during the company's growth and most recently has been provided the unique opportunity in Human Resources to develop a culture where innovative service and community involvement top the list of priorities for the company. Dan serves as a Board Member for UCP of Central Florida, has a wife Amanda, a 2 year old son Jaxon, and a 1 year old son Owen.



DR. SEAN SNAITH
DIRECTOR, INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS
UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

Sean Snaith, Ph.D., is the director of the University of Central Florida's Institute for Economic Competitiveness and a nationally recognized economist in the field of business and economic forecasting.

An award-winning forecaster, researcher and professor, Snaith applies academic expertise to solve real-world problems. He has served as a consultant for local governments and multi-national corporations such as Compaq, Dell and IBM. Before joining UCF's College of Business Administration, he held teaching positions at Pennsylvania State University, American University in Cairo, the University of North Dakota and the University of the Pacific.

Snaith frequently is interviewed in national and regional media and is a sought-after speaker. He has been quoted in *The Wall Street Journal*, *USA Today*, *The New York Times*, *The Economist* and CNNMoney.com and has appeared on CNBC, Fox Business Network and Business News Network, based in Toronto.

Known for his engaging presentations, Snaith earned praise from one business editor for "(having) an uncanny knack of making economics not only understandable but interesting."

Snaith is a member of several economic organizations and national economic forecasting panels, including *The Wall Street Journal's* Economic Forecasting Survey, the Associated Press' Economy Survey, CNNMoney.com's Survey of Leading Economists, *USA Today's* Survey of Top Economists, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia's Survey of Professional Forecasters, Bloomberg and Reuters.

Snaith was named by Bloomberg News as one of the nation's most accurate forecasters in 2008. In 2007, he was named California's most accurate forecaster by the Western Blue Chip Consensus Forecast.

Snaith holds a B.S. in Economics from Allegheny College and an M.A. and Ph.D. in Economics from Pennsylvania State University.

Snaith is also the host of "Money Clips With Sean Snaith," a weekly segment produced by [UCF TV](#), which aims to break down complex issues into digestible news about subjects ranging from the job market and housing to the cost of food

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BRIAN WALTERS

**EXEC. VP, INNOVATION & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
METRO ORLANDO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

In May 2010, Brian joined the EDC as Executive Vice President heading up the Innovation & Business Development team. In his role, he oversees all business development functions and team members of the organization.

Prior to joining the EDC, Brian served as the president of the Greater Fargo Moorhead Economic Development Corporation for eight years. There, he was responsible for administration and strategic direction of the two-county, two-state economic development organization where he was instrumental in the establishment of the Cass/Clay Economic Plan, an initiative designed to place that region in a stronger position to compete for businesses and jobs in emerging high-tech industries such as vaccine development and smart technologies, among other notable accomplishments.

Brian is an accomplished economic development professional with a proven track record of success and over 15 years of direct industry experience in Purvis, MS; Conroe, TX; and Dumas, TX. He is a member of the International Economic Development Council. He was very involved in the community in Fargo, ND, and he looks forward to becoming involved within the community in Metro Orlando.

Education: M.S., Economic Development, University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, MS
B.S., Geography, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND

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