

Mary Ann Johnston, Program Administrator

Mary Ann has attained more than 25 years of success in private non-profit and university grants development and administration. Her past employers have included the University of Central Florida, The Florida Hospital Foundation and the Orlando Science Center. During her career, she has written countless grant proposals and managed more than 200 grant and contract awards totaling more than \$68 million dollars. She was a member of the team that developed and executed the strategic plan and capital campaign to build the Orlando Science Center in Loch Haven Park, completed in 1997. She has also written and produced numerous annual reports and business plans, and coordinated a comprehensive institutional self-study for initial accreditation by the American Association of Museums. Mary Ann has also served on national and state panels to review grant applications and recently chaired a state panel in Tallahassee. Her community activities have included service on the Boards of the Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences and the Women's Resource Center. She is a member of a variety of professional and civic organizations.

A native of Mobile, Alabama, Mary Ann was the daughter of a career Army officer. As an Army "brat," she attended nine different schools around the U.S., before graduating from Nürnberg American High School in Nürnberg, Germany. She attended Spring Hill College in Mobile and then transferred to Auburn University, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and German. Mary Ann also earned a Master's degree in Public Policy Administration at the University of Central Florida and has completed additional graduate courses in Instructional Systems Design.

While at Auburn University, Mary Ann joined the Navy's Reserve Officer Candidate program and was the first woman to be commissioned as an Ensign with Auburn's ROTC. After serving five years on active duty in the Navy and 23 years in the Navy Reserve, Mary Ann retired with the rank of Captain, (O-6). On active duty, she served on the staff of the Commander-in-Chief Atlantic Fleet (CINCLANTFLT) and on the staff of the Commander, Naval Air Forces Pacific (COMNAVAIRPAC). During her Reserve service, she commanded four Navy Reserve shore-based units and completed non-command assignments as Executive Officer and Training Officer in ten other Reserve units. She deployed to Bahrain and Qatar during Operations Desert Storm & Restore Hope (1st Gulf War). Her personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal (MSM), the Navy Commendation Medal (NCM), National Defense Service Medal, and two ODS campaign ribbons, among other decorations.

Mary Ann met and married her husband, Bob, while on active duty in Norfolk, Virginia. He, too, is a retired Navy Captain. They have one daughter, Jennifer, who works as an Art Director for a non-profit organization in Washington D.C.