

Dr. James Watson Celebration

**Gwen Stahnke
Walla Walla Community College, Walla Walla, WA**

Monday, July 17, 2017



Dr. James Watson was one of the early leaders of the International Turfgrass Society (ITS) and an integral part of turfgrass research throughout his entire life. In recognition of his many contributions to turfgrass research, the ITS will host an evening program on Monday, 17 July 2017 from 17:30 to 18:45 in the conference hotel (Hyatt Regency). This program was designed to highlight who Dr. Watson was and his many contributions to the industry today, future research, and his promotion of student educational opportunities.

We are honored to have Dr. James B. Beard, President and Chief Scientist of the International Sports Turf Institute, Inc. and Professor Emeritus of Turfgrass Science, Texas A & M University give a brief overview of how the ITS was founded and the history of Dr. Watson's involvement in the ITS over the years. Dr. Paul Rieke, Professor Emeritus of Michigan State University and Dr. Kimberly Erusha, Managing Director of the USGA Green Section also will speak about Dr. Watson and his involvement in the USGA Turfgrass and Environmental Research Committee.

Mr. Dana Lonn, Director of the Center for Advanced Turf Technology with the Toro Company will speak about the Watson Fellowship Award, and a member of Dr. Watson's family will give a brief tribute to Dr. Watson. The celebration will end with some comments from Dr. James Murphy of Rutgers University, who as a student benefited greatly from Dr. Watson's guidance and commitment to turfgrass research.

Please join us to honor the legacy of Dr. James Watson. There will be light hors d'oeuvres and refreshments available for the attendees to mingle and visit with each other after this event.