



*The School of Hospitality Business  
Alumni Association*

*2018 Annual Gathering of Leaders  
Award Ceremony & Reception*

*Monday, May 21, 2018  
6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.*

*Holiday Inn Mart Plaza – River North  
Wolf Point Ballroom (15<sup>th</sup> floor)  
350 West Mart Center Drive  
Chicago, Illinois*

**MICHIGAN STATE**  
UNIVERSITY

The School of Hospitality Business  
Broad College of Business

*The School of Hospitality Business Alumni Association  
645 N. Shaw Lane, East Lansing, MI 48824  
Phone: (517) 353-9211  
<https://hospitalitybusiness.broad.msu.edu/>*

**MICHIGAN STATE**  
UNIVERSITY

The School of Hospitality Business  
Broad College of Business



## *Program*

Welcome Remarks ..... Mike Rice (BA '91)  
Chairman of the Board, The School's Alumni Association  
Business Development Director, Hotel Contracting Services, Inc.

Recognition of the Emerging Alumni  
Leaders of the Year ..... Chuck Day (BA '91)  
*Chairman Emeritus*, The School's Alumni Association  
Regional Director of Revenue Management  
Services, InterContinental Hotels Group

..... Martha Zehnder Kaczynski (BA '03)  
Treasurer, The School's Alumni Association  
Vice President, Bavarian Inn Lodge

***Brian DeMeester, CHHE (BA '98)***

*Executive Housekeeper  
Amway Grand Plaza Hotel*

***Alison Wallace (BA '97)***

*Director of Sales  
Hiltons of Chicago*

Recognition of the Honorary  
Alumnus of the Year ..... James F. Anhut (MBA '85)  
Vice President-Elect, The School's Alumni Association  
Partner, The Passionality Group

***Jerome F. "Jerry" Cataldo***  
*President & Chief Executive Officer  
Hostmark Hospitality Group*

Recognition of the Alumna of the Year ..... James Kauffman (BA '75)  
President, The School's Alumni Association  
Retired, Marriott International

***Carol L. Campbell (BA '98)***  
*Managing Director of Customer Experience  
Insight & Analytics, Delta Airlines*

Congratulatory Remarks ..... Dr. Jeffrey A. Beck  
Interim Associate Director, The School of Hospitality Business

Closing Remarks ..... Dr. Carl Borchgrevink  
Interim Director, The School of Hospitality Business

## 2018 Emerging Alumnus Leader of the Year



**Brian DeMeester, CHHE (BA '98)**  
*Executive Housekeeper*  
*Amway Grand Plaza Hotel*

Working in restaurants through middle and high school sparked Brian DeMeester's interest in hospitality. The comradery with his colleagues and the personal connections he made with guests instilled a passion to choose a career in restaurant management. To achieve his goal, Brian enrolled in The School of Hospitality Business at Michigan State University and received a Bachelor of Arts in 1998. As a student leader, he volunteered to serve as the director of marketing for The School's CAREER EXPO and Destination Auction teams. He was exposed to many avenues in the hospitality industry through his involvement with *Les Gourmets*, Club Managers Association of America, and the student Hospitality Sales Organization. He fondly remembers Dr. Schmidgall's accounting class and appreciates the lessons as they taught him to think about the financial impact of decisions in his professional and personal life.

In his current role as the Executive Housekeeper at the 682-room Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, Brian is responsible for keeping the Grand Rapids' iconic hotel's reputation known for its immaculate appearance and outstanding service. He has helped many associates by instilling empathy and consistency in his team; his interest in their professional growth is the hallmark of his personal management philosophy. In addition to the development of the Amway housekeeping team, he is involved in creating a student internship program and a companywide externship program for students to grow their experience in the hospitality industry. Previously Brian was the Director of Housekeeping at The H Hotel, where he worked with his team to achieve their national rating to a Four Diamond hotel and as one of Michigan's top five hotels and resorts to visit.

Brian wants to be remembered as someone who, *"Worked hard to ensure associates' work lives are better than they expected and instilled empathy and consistency in each team member and to take a personal vested interest in their professional growth."* His greatest accomplishment in the industry is to watch his associates gain the confidence and to advance in their careers. Brian's reply when asked to complete this phrase, *"Spartans Will...Accomplish!"*

Brian is a member of The School's Alumni Association Appointed Board of Directors and has been awarded the Alumnus of the Month in June 2014. He is a Spartan Sponsor mentor for undergraduate hospitality business students and has represented The School on a panel for students of the Broad College of Business with undeclared majors. Brian volunteers annually at local agencies and schools to help others gain skills to participate in this wonderful career we call hospitality.

Brian and his wife, Peggy, reside in Holland, Michigan with their two children, Olivia and Lucas.  
**Please join us in congratulating Brian DeMeester (BA '98) as The School of Hospitality Business Alumni Association's 2018 Emerging Alumnus Leader of the Year.**

## Faculty & Staff

### Fulbright Scholar

**Tran Thi Ngoc Lien, Ph.D.**  
Head of Department of Hospitality Management  
Hue University, Vietnam

### Faculty Members

**Melissa Bankroff (BA '94, MA '08)**  
Graduate Programs Coordinator

**Jeffrey A. Beck, Ph.D.**  
Interim Associate Director

**Michael Behan (BA '88, JD '91)**  
Lecturer

**Carl P. Borchgrevink, Ph.D.**  
Interim Director

**Robert Michael Brown (BA '79, MBA '94)**  
Lecturer

**Richard A. Bruner (MLIR '77)**  
Professor of Practice

**JaeMin Cha, Ph.D. (MS '98)**  
Associate Professor

**Ronald F. Cichy, Ph.D. (BA '72, MBA '77)**  
Professor

**Jeffery D Elsworth, Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor of Hospitality Business  
Entrepreneurship

**Authella Collins Hawks, M.Ed.**  
Student & Industry Resource Center Director

**Joel Heberlein**  
Lecturer

**Mi Ran Kim, Ph.D. (MS '05)**  
Assistant Professor

**Seung Hyun (James) Kim, Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor

**Bonnie J. Knutson, Ph.D.**  
Professor

**Lena L. Loeffler**  
Alumni Relations & Development

**Michael McCall, Ph.D.**  
National Automatic Merchandising Association  
Professor in Hospitality Business

**Raymond S. Schmidgall, Ph.D.**  
Hilton Hotels Professor of Hospitality Financial  
Management

**Allan L. Sherwin (BA '64)**  
Dr. Lewis J. & Mrs. Ruth E. Minor Professor of  
Culinary Business

**Arjun Singh, Ph.D.**  
Professor, Hilton Hotels Fellow, Hospitality Business  
Real Estate Investment Management Director

**Jeff Yingling (MA '95)**  
Assistant Director of Undergraduate Academic  
Programs

**Lu Zhang, Ph.D.**  
Assistant Professor

Staff Members  
**John (Rick) Brown**  
Culinary Coordinator

**Jessica Henry**  
Clerical Aide

**Paula Hull**  
Office Assistant

**Jamie L. Lyon**  
Office Supervisor

**Lois Schroeder**  
Secretary

**Char Schultz**  
On-Call

**James L. McKillips (BA '75)**

Retired, MSU Food Stores

**Russ Melaragni (BA '79)**

Vice President, Colleague Relations, Hyatt Corporation

**Michael Moriarty (BA '11)**

Associate, Eastdil Secured

**Kerri Morrell (BA '05)**

Sr. Regional Revenue Manager, White Lodging Services

**Sandra J. Moton (BA '77, MS '89)**

Principal, Redmond, Moton &amp; Associates

**Scott Ninemeier (BA '06)**

Clubhouse Manager, Kent Country Club

**Mark R. O'Brien (BA '89)**

Vice President, Lodging, Boyne Mountain Resort

**Jake Olsman (BA '08)**

Vice President, Bloomfield Capital Partners

**Kit Pappas (BA '82)**

Vice President, Hotel Management, Tavistock Development Company

**John W. Pharr (BA '69)**

President, Strand Development Company, LLC

**Jason C. Rabidoux (BA '04)**

Vice President, Business Development, Davidson Hotels &amp; Resorts

**Nate Redner (BA '12)**

Beverage Director, The Pump Room, Lettuce Entertain You Enterprises, Inc.

**Michael Rodden (BA '81)**

General Manager, Indianapolis Marriott Hotel East

**Kristina Rudnik (BA '13)**

Human Resources Coordinator, Golub Capital

**Rob Sadoff (BA '00)**

Principal, Scarlett Hotel Group

**Ben Schwartz (BA '72)**

President, Harper Associates

**Keith H. Shopnick (BA '98)**

General Manager, Indianapolis Marriott Downtown

**Joseph Shurmur (BA '90)**

Vice President Operations, Greenwood Hospitality

**Matthew A. Sparks (BA '84)**

Executive Vice President &amp; Chief Investment Officer, Park Hotels &amp; Resorts

**Rose Spickler (BA '12)**

Adjunct Faculty, Culinary Institute of Michigan and Baker College

**Scott Steilen (BA '91)**

President &amp; Chief Executive Officer, The Sea Island Company

**Kristin St. Marie (BA '87, MS '99)**

Assistant Director, Open Enrollment Programs, Broad College of Business

**Kevin Swanquist (BA '08)**

Executive Recruiter, Harper Associates

**Christopher Tatum (BA '81)**

Vice President &amp; Market General Manager, Marriott Resorts Hawaii

**Steven B. Thompson (BA '87)**

General Manager, Saddle &amp; Cycle Club

**John Triblo (BA '10)**

Senior Strategic Sales Manager, DoorDash

**Mike Tueros (BA '97)**

Regional Vice President of Operations, Levy Restaurants

**Steven J. Wagenheim (BA '77)**

Founder &amp; President, Granite City Food &amp; Brewery

**Thomas Wagner (BA '97)**

Senior Regional Director of Operations, Levy Restaurants

**Aaron Weiner (BA '99)**

Training General Manager, Buffalo Wild Wings

**Andrew Williamson (BA '19)**

Student Chief Executive Officer, Hospitality Association

**Blair Wills (BA '02)**

President &amp; Chief Operating Officer, StepStone Hospitality

**Mary Winslow (BA '91)**

Senior Vice President, Strategic Solutions, Luckie &amp; Company

**Kurt B. Wisniewski (BA '94)**

National Account Executive, Branded Solutions, Starbucks Coffee Company

**Terri Woodin (BA '88)**

Vice President, Marketing &amp; Global Meeting Services, Meeting Sites Resource

**Philip Zeller (BA '96)**

Owner &amp; Chief Executive Officer, Dale Carnegie by Ralph Nichols Group, Inc.

## 2018 Emerging Alumna Leader of the Year

***Alison Wallace (BA '97)****Director of Sales**Hiltons of Chicago*

The unique challenges of the hospitality industry were the allure for Alison Wallace (BA '97). Working at an exclusive country club in high school, Alison knew she wanted to be in the hospitality industry. As a student in The School of Hospitality Business, Alison worked on the pre-opening business plan for the Wild Goose Inn Bed and Breakfast in East Lansing, which was recently ranked as one of the best inns by *Travel and Leisure* magazine.

After graduation, Alison joined Hilton in an operations role, and was soon promoted to the sales department after one year. Currently, she is the Director of Sales for Hiltons of Chicago and oversees three Hilton properties: The Palmer House, The Drake, and Hilton Chicago. She strives to encourage and develop her sales team. Alison wants to be remembered as a great mentor to her colleagues. She leads her team to generate over \$150 million in sales annually. These accomplishments have earned her the distinguished Hilton's Circle of Excellence award on three different occasions.

Alison continues to stay involved with her *alma mater* by hosting two students each year from Michigan State to earn their level two internship in Sales and Marketing. She enjoys coming back to campus annually for CAREER EXPO and to guest lecture in the classroom.

Outside of her philanthropy efforts with MSU and The School, Alison has spent several years volunteering at her son's school. She teaches young students about careers in hotels and specifically highlights the multitude of career paths available in the hospitality industry. She believes introducing the hospitality industry to young adults is important, *"because many people do not consider our industry as an option for a career, and our industry is one of the largest in the world."*

One can see from her efforts that Alison has always gone above and beyond what is required. Her sales team has the reputation for being one of the elite in the city of Chicago; it is clear that she and her team will not settle for second best. Alison's response when asked to complete this phrase, ***"Spartans Will...Always Find a Way to Succeed!"***

Alison and her husband, Andrew, reside in Chicago with their son, Robert. **Please join us in congratulating Alison Wallace (BA '97), on being named The School's Alumni Association 2018 Emerging Alumna Leader of the Year.**

## 2018 Honorary Alumnus of the Year



### **Jerome F. Cataldo**

*President & Chief Executive Officer  
Hostmark Hospitality Group*

As a student, Jerome F. “Jerry” Cataldo never planned to enter the hospitality industry. Working in a number of hotels throughout his high school and collegiate years, Jerry learned the ins and outs of the business from the ground up through his own hospitality training program. Those experiences served as the foundation for the variety of positions Jerry has held within Hostmark

Hospitality Group, the management company that his father (C.A. “Bud” Cataldo) founded. Today, he is glad to have had those experiences and opportunities early on, as he draws upon them to help guide his leadership of Hostmark. Jerome received a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration at Marquette University and a Masters of Business Administration in Finance at DePaul University.

Currently, Jerry serves as the Chief Executive Officer in addition to his current role as Hostmark’s President. His responsibilities include the guidance and growth of Hostmark’s portfolio through acquisitions and management opportunities, and expanding strategic business partnerships. In addition, Jerry has played a vital role in establishing Hostmark’s international reputation for managing hotels and resorts throughout the United States and abroad.

Jerry’s favorite part of his job is fostering Hostmark’s passion for the Art of Service – establishing a culture among team members that focuses on positively impacting guests, even when working in a select service hotel. Hostmark is on their 53<sup>rd</sup> year of continual success, with the third generation of the Cataldo family having joined the company in 2010. *“It’s one of the things I’m most proud of - the longevity and integrity of our company, and our Artists’ commitment to service,”* he shares. Hostmark has expanded its portfolio with new additions of strategic projects such as the Hampton/Homewood Suites in Chicago’s West Loop, the boutique Perry Hotel Key West, and the Higgins Hotel, a Curio Collection Hotel in New Orleans at the National WWII Museum opening in summer of 2019. Hostmark has also been expanding its long history of hotel operations in university and college campus locations.

Jerry currently serves as the Treasurer and member of the Board of Directors for the Illinois Hotel & Lodging Association and as Vice Chairman of DePaul University’s School of Hospitality Leadership and formerly served on the Kendall College Les Roches School of Hospitality Management Advisory Board. He formerly served on the Board of Directors of the Chicago Convention and Tourism Bureau. He has been recognized as an industry leader, speaking at hospitality conference and events as well as a recurring lecturer at hospitality programs including Florida International University and Roosevelt University.

Jerry and his wife, Lori, have four children: Allyson, Elise, Natalie, and Anthony. **Please join us in congratulating Jerome F. Cataldo on being named The School of Hospitality Business Alumni Association 2018 Honorary Alumnus of the Year.**

## The School’s Alumni Association Appointed Board of Directors

### APPOINTED DIRECTORS

**Matthew D. Anderson (BA ’09)**  
Chief Brand Officer, Engaged Education

**Mark C. Auerbach (BA ’65)**  
President, Auerbach Hotel Associates

**Ross D. Bartlett (BA ’10)**  
Director of Rooms Division, Amway Grand Plaza Hotel

**Dan Briks (BA ’04)**  
Hotel Manager, The Lexington New York City

**Richard A. Bruner (MLRHR ’77)**  
Professor of Practice, The School of Hospitality Business

**Marc L. Cassier, Jr. (BA ’89)**  
Corporate Executive Director, Conference Services & Catering,  
AccorHotels / Fairmont Hotels & Resorts, Americas

**Alexandra Clark (BA ’10)**  
Chief Executive Officer & Owner, Bon Bon Bon

**Art Davis (BA ’88)**  
Director of Finance, Westin NY Times Square

**Brian DeMeester (BA ’98)**  
Executive Housekeeper, Amway Grand Plaza Hotel

**David DuBois (BA ’78)**  
President & Chief Executive Officer, International Association  
of Exhibitions & Events

**Chris Durso (BA ’82)**  
Distinguished Alumnus

**Jesse Eisenhuth (BA ’00)**  
Customer Development Specialist, Gordon Food Service

**Paul Finstad (BA ’13)**  
Associate, Acquisitions & Asset Management, Watermark  
Capital Partners

**Jeffrey R. Gillett (BA ’86)**  
Executive Vice President, The Elliot Group

**John C. Guy (BA ’80)**  
General Manager & Chief Operating Officer, Westmoreland  
Country Club

**Jennifer Hajduk (BA ’98)**  
Assistant Director of Catering & Events, The Hilton Hotel

**Joel A. Halperin (BA ’07)**  
Executive General Manager, Hillstone Restaurant Midtown

**Joaquin De La Cerda Harlow (BA ’07)**  
Manager, Il Porcellino, Lettuce Entertain You Enterprises, Inc.

**Gary Hernbroth (BA ’79)**  
Chief Motivating Officer, Training for Winners

**Jason Hilliard (BA ’95)**  
Vice President of Operations, Kosch Hospitality

**Joel W. Hiser (BA ’73)**  
Principal, HTL Hospitality Advisors

**Aaron Ide (BA ’98)**  
Resort Manager, The Biltmore, Four Seasons Resort

**Lauren Johnson (BA ’19)**  
Student Chief Executive Officer, Destination Auction

**Kevin S. Kennebeck (BA ’88)**  
General Manager, Ruth Lake Country Club

**Andrew J. Kern**  
Executive Managing Director of Hospitality, Newmark Grubb  
Knight

**Nadia Kilgore (BA ’11)**  
Catering Sales Manager, Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts

**Davlyn King (BS ’95, BA ’99)**  
Regional Director of Revenue Management Services,  
InterContinental Hotels Group

**Stephen E. LaHaie (MBA ’77)**  
Senior Vice President, Shaw’s Crab House Division, Lettuce  
Entertain You Enterprises, Inc.

**Curtis Lease (BA ’91)**  
Director of Business Development, ARAMARK Business  
Dining

**Kurt Lefler (BA ’88)**  
District General Manager, Compass Group / Eurest

**Shelley K. MacMillan (BA ’73)**  
Executive Director, Glacier Hills Foundation

**Luke Magnini (BA ’12)**  
Hospitality Manager & Certified Sommelier, Ram’s Gate  
Winery

**John G. Malone (BA ’82)**  
Area Director, Choice Hotel International

**James McHenry (BA ’14)**  
Senior Sales Executive, Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa

**Angelos J. Vlahakis (BA '51)**  
Retired

**Lou Weckstein (BA '58)**  
Retired

**Robert A. Wills (BA '70)**  
Retired

**CHAIRMEN EMERITI**  
**Dan E. Burdakin (BA '81)**  
Distinguished Alumnus

**Dan W. Darrow (MBA '61)**  
President, Palm Hospitality Company

**Chuck Day (BA '91)**  
Regional Director, Revenue Management Services,  
InterContinental Hotels Group

**Billy Downs (BA '88)**  
Owner, Ford's Garage Dearborn

**Michael H. Getto (BA '56)**  
Director of Public Relations, The Hills Hotel

**Marc J. Gordon (MBA '73)**  
President & CEO, Illinois Hotel & Lodging Association

**John P. Hawes (BA '73)**  
Senior Partner, LucasGroup

**J. Bruce Lange (BA '78)**  
Managing Director, Westin Kierland Resort & Spa

**Dan H. Mathews, Jr. (BA '66)**  
Retired, National Automatic Merchandising Association

**Jerry A. McVety (BA '67)**  
President, McVety & Associates, LLC

**Michael W. Murray (BA '81)**  
Chief Operating Officer, HHM

**Mary Ann Ramsey (BA '75)**  
Owner & President, Betty Maclean Travel, Inc.

**Susan K. Smith (BA '59)**  
President, Food Technologies, Inc.

**John Theuer (BA '83, MBA '83)**  
Chief Financial Officer, Eureka Restaurant Group

**Ken Weber (BA '77)**  
President, Weber's Restaurant & Boutique Hotel

**William A. Zehnder (BA '71)**  
President, Frankenmuth Bavarian Inn Restaurant

## *2018 Alumna of the Year*



***Carol L. Campbell (BA '98)***  
*Managing Director of Customer Experience  
Insight & Analytics, Delta Airlines*

As a young female leader in a heavily male-dominated industry, Carol Campbell has built a reputation as someone with great courage and a willingness to take risks. After graduation in 1998, Carol joined The Walt Disney Company and spent 20 years leading the global planning and development for Disney hotels worldwide. Her key accomplishments include development and approval of a multi-billion dollar repositioning strategy for more than 50 hotels around the globe. She also guided the concept development for new products, including the recently announced Star Wars Hotel. During her years with Disney, she held positions in operations, consumer research, global shared services, and new business initiatives.

Most recently, Carol joined Delta Air Lines as the Managing Director of Consumer Experience Insight & Analytics. With a passion to deliver customer service excellence, Carol helps steer Delta's future service investments. She provides leadership across the company to drive continuous evolution of the consumer experience and development of Delta's data management platform. During her four years at MSU, she engaged in research and teaching assistant opportunities, and learned her first lessons of leadership as the President of Eta Sigma Delta. Carol continued her education at Rollins College earning a Master's of Business Administration in 2004. Outside of her devotion to her career, Carol enjoys mentoring new leaders and helping them find their authentic voice. Carol's response when asked to complete this phrase, ***"Spartans Will... Unlock the Future of Hospitality!"***

Carol has invested her time helping to develop The School's first-class curriculum for its students. She has taught exclusive content in many hospitality business classes and spearheaded the development of new internships with Disney to create unique opportunities for students. Beyond the hospitality industry, Carol wants to be remembered as a mom who cheers loudly at her son's soccer games, dances in the living room with her toddler, and enjoys every moment of parenthood with her husband, Joe.

Maya Angelou's quote is an underscore from the memories of Carol's MSU professors, *"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."* It was the graciousness and support of her professors and their advocacy and willingness to treat her like an individual and not just another student on their class roster that helped her recover from an unfortunate accident her senior year.

Carol and her husband, Joe, reside in Atlanta, Georgia with their two children, Jack (12) and Grant (4). **Please join us in congratulating Carol Campbell (BA '98) as The School of Hospitality Business Alumni Association 2018 Alumna of the Year.**

## *Sponsors*

A special thank you to our event sponsors. Your thoughtfulness and generosity is appreciated!

### CORPORATE

#### **Platinum**

Holiday Inn Mart Plaza – River North  
The School of Hospitality Business Alumni Association  
The Walt Disney Company

### INDIVIDUAL

#### **Gold**

Bennett (Ben) Schwartz (BA '72)  
Martha Zehnder Kaczynski (BA '03) and John Kaczynski

#### **Silver**

James F. Anhut (MBA '85)  
Nadia (BA '11) and Mark Kilgore

#### **Bronze**

Chuck Day (BA '91)  
Annette Lowe  
Michael (Kit) Pappas (BA '82)  
James F. Rainey  
Blair Wills (BA '02)

#### **Other**

Marc L. Cassier (BA '89)  
Ronald F. Cichy (BA '72, MBA '77)  
Kenneth D. Hill (BA '56)  
Lou Weckstein (BA '58)

## *The School's Alumni Association Executive Board of Directors*

### CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

**Mike Rice (BA '91)**  
Business Development Director, Hotel Contracting Services, Inc.

### PRESIDENT

**James Kauffman (BA '75)**  
Retired, Marriott International

### VICE PRESIDENT

**Allegra Johnson (BA '91)**  
Retired, Club Management

### TREASURER

**Martha Zehnder Kaczynski (BA '03)**  
Vice President, Bavarian Inn Lodge

### SECRETARY

**Richard Farrar, (BA '73)**  
Principal, The Farrar Consulting Group

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

**James F. Anhut (MBA '85)**  
Partner, The Passionality Group, LLC

### **John Belden (BA '85)**

President & Chief Executive Officer, Davidson Hotel Company

### **Carl Borchgrevink, Ph.D.**

Interim Director, The School of Hospitality Business

### **Kevin J. Brown (BA '77)**

President & Chief Executive Officer, Lettuce Entertain You Enterprises, Inc.

### **Carol L. Campbell (BA '98)**

Managing Director of Customer Experience Insight & Analytics, Delta Airlines

### **Ronald F. Cichy (BA '72, MBA '77)**

Professor, The School of Hospitality Business

### **Jackie Collens (BA '07)**

Asset Manager, Ty Warner Hotels & Resorts

### **Jay Dee Cutting (BA '61)**

Retired, Choice Hotels International

### **Hans Desai (BA '79)**

Vice President, Xanterra Parks & Resorts

### **Gary Finnell (BA '79)**

Senior Director, Development Hilton

### **Philip J. Hickey, Jr. (BA '77)**

Chairman, Miller's Ale House Restaurants

### **Erik Liedholm (BA '93)**

Company Wine Director / Partner, John Howie Restaurants

### **Bob Pierce (BA '83)**

General Manager, The Dearborn Inn

### **Grant Sabroff (BA '84)**

Senior Vice President, Business Development, Concord Hospitality Enterprises, Inc.

### **Houston Striggow (BA '75)**

Co-Founder & Chief Operating Officer, SusieCakes Bakeries

### **Peter J. Weien (BA '81)**

Retired

### **Stu Wolff (BA '82)**

Executive Vice President, Foodservice, Midwest Acosta Sales & Marketing

### EX-OFFICIO EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

### **Jeffrey D. Anderson (BA '90)**

Distinguished Alumnus

### **James E. Burba (BA '77)**

President, Burba Hotel Network

### **Bradley N. Cance (BA '89)**

Distinguished Alumnus

### **John Flood (BA '80)**

Founder, elevate

### **Jeremy J. Mourey (BA '00)**

Corporate Operations Director, Premiere Food Service, Inc.

### HONORARY LIFETIME MEMBERS

### **Neil F. Barnhart (BA '64, MBA '65)**

Retired

### **Richard C. Conti (MBA '76)**

Senior Managing Director, The Plasencia Group

### **Kenneth D. Hill (BA '56)**

Retired

### **Jon Kennedy (BA '73)**

Senior Vice President, Grandstay Hospitality, LLC

### **John M. O'Donnell (BA '69)**

General Manager & Chief Operating Officer, St. Clair Golf Club

### **Zoe P. Slagle (BA '59, MA '64)**

Owner, Zoe P. Slagle Consulting



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## 2018 Spartan Champion Award



***Dan W. Darrow (MBA '61)***  
*President, Palm Hospitality Company*  
*a subsidiary of The Walt Disney Company*

Dan Darrow is president of Palm Hospitality, a subsidiary of The Walt Disney Company. He has been responsible for hotel asset management and contract administration. His career with the Disney organization began in 1970, and from then until 1979 he has held numerous positions including general manager of the Walt Disney World Hotel Division; manager of convention sales; and manager of sales and marketing for the Lake Buena Vista Village & Conference Center. From 1979 to 1984, Dan was director of sales, responsible for the Walt Disney World Hotel Central Reservations System, Corporate and Convention Sales, Banquets and Special Events. In 1984, he served as executive director of hotel relations, the liaison for all marketing, promotional, and operational activities with seven hotels in The Walt Disney World Village Hotel Plaza. He was named president of Palm Hospitality in 1994.

Dan earned his Bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of New Mexico in 1953 and spent the next four years in the U.S. Air Force, attaining the rank of captain. He then continued his education at Michigan State University earning a Master's of Business Administration degree in 1961, with an emphasis in hotel administration. Dan subsequently became an active alumnus serving on The School's Alumni Association Executive Board of Directors as vice president from 1993 to 1995; president from 1995 to 1997; and chairman of the board in 1997. Dan is a member of the Presidents Club and the Beaumont Tower Society. In 1998, Dan received the Outstanding Alumni Award from the Eli Broad College of Business and in 1999 Dan was recognized as The School's Alumni Association's Alumnus of the Year.

Dan exemplifies commitment to his Florida community by serving as president of the Florida Hotel & Motel Association in 1991; serving two terms as vice president, tourism on the board of directors of the Orlando Chamber of Commerce; served as chairman of the Orange County Civic Center's promotional advisory board; and was a founding member of the board for the Orlando/ Orange County Convention & Visitors Bureau. In 1974, then Governor Reubin Askew, presented Dan with the Tourism Leadership Award, and the Florida Hotel & Motel Association in 1993 named him Hotelier of the Year.

Dan is a dear friend to many of us, ***“To know Dan is to have met a true servant leader; he exemplifies leadership from the heart, and in addition to being a smart businessman – he is a role model for us all with regard to leading and mentoring others,”*** states Carol Campbell (BA '98).

Dan and his wife, Lone, reside in Celebration, Florida. **Please join us in congratulating Dan W. Darrow (MBA '61) as The School of Hospitality Business Alumni Association's 2018 Spartan Champion Award.**