

**UCF Rosen College Students Overcome Challenges to Produce
“Talented Knights at UCF”
Monday, Nov. 3, 2008, 4 to 7 p.m.**

ORLANDO, Oct. 20, 2008 – An event management class at the UCF Rosen College of Hospitality Management has faced the rigors of the current economy but insists that the show must go on. The future event leaders have come together to produce *Talented Knights at UCF*, a large-scale student performance showcase. With sheer determination and generous community support, the students have overcome rigorous hurdles to produce *Talented Knights* from scratch, despite having no budget.

The students are very vocal about how far they've come. Alexis Garhammer says, "Having to find donations for this free event has reminded me that even as students, my fellow classmates at Rosen are great at networking and already have so many connections in the industry." And Melanie Reese wants people to know that, "It is amazing how students can pull together to create a valuable event--without a budget. We really learned how to utilize our resources!"

Local businesses have generously donated prizes for the student event. They include a Blue Sanyo digital camera, Universal/Islands of Adventure Park Hopper Passes, JetBlue round-trip voucher to anywhere that JetBlue jets to, \$100 in gift cards to Stonewood Grill, and a grand prize of head shots with Kellie Warren-Underwood Photography Co.

Highly influential industry professionals from the local area have also been acquired by the students, under the direction of class instructor, Ms. Susan Lee. The contributing judges include: Alison Richard, Talent Buyer, Universal Studios; Anitra Pritchard, Show Director, Universal Studios; Tommy Wooten, Show Director, Universal Studios; Muffet Baker, Production Manager / Casting, SeaWorld; Tony Peluso, Vice President, Venues and Events for University Properties International; Doug Allen, Independent Talent Producer; Ron Logan Professor, Rosen College of Hospitality, UCF, Executive Vice President of Walt Disney Entertainment, Emeritus; and Ron Severini, Executive Producer, Castle Talent.

Talented Knights will be held on Monday, Nov. 3 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the UCF Arena Atrium Lobby, located at Bld. 50, North Gemini Blvd., Orlando, FL 32816, on the UCF Main Campus. The event is free and the general public is invited to enjoy, applaud and encourage tomorrow's rising stars!

About the College

Located in the heart of the tourism and hospitality industry, Orlando, the Rosen College of Hospitality Management is dedicated to the values of professionalism, leadership and service. The mission of the Rosen College of Hospitality Management is to develop future generations of global hospitality and tourism leaders representing all industry segments in the hospitality capital of the world, through innovative academic programs, cutting edge research and strong industry and community partnerships.

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