

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ron Dowdy & Maria Triscari to be Inducted into Central Florida Hospitality Hall of Fame®

Orlando, FL (May 5, 2015) – The Rosen College of Hospitality Management at the University of Central Florida will honor Ron Dowdy and Maria Triscari at The Pineapple Ball™ on Saturday, Oct. 17 at Rosen Shingle Creek in Orlando, FL. The event will be produced by Rosen College faculty, staff and students. Proceeds will benefit academic initiatives and scholarships.

“Ron and Maria are longtime Central Floridians who have helped shape the world-famous International Drive corridor into a powerful tourism destination,” said Dr. Abraham Pizam, dean of Rosen College. “The industry owes a great deal to their leadership, vision and continued dedication, so this honor is extremely well deserved.”

Ronald “Ron” E. Dowdy is a seasoned real estate owner/operator with more than 45 years of professional experience, including more than 42 years in real estate acquisition, development and management. His real estate career began in 1971 when he obtained his first lease of a hotel gift shop at the entrance to Walt Disney World. Mr. Dowdy currently manages around 50 tenant spaces in six different locations on and around International Drive and oversees an approximately 2,000-acre Black Angus Cattle Ranch in Virginia’s Shenandoah Valley. He is also very active in civic causes, including American Red Cross of Central Florida, Boys and Girls Clubs of America, Boy Scouts of America, Florida Citrus Sports Foundation, Florida Citrus Bowl and the Sheriff’s Employee Assistance Trust (SEAT) Foundation.

Maria Triscari is the President and CEO of the International Drive Resort Area Chamber of Commerce, which represents the International Drive Resort Area and its myriad hotels, restaurants, retail outlets, attractions and major theme parks. She was hired as executive director of the Chamber in 1989 at its inception and after 27 years of service, is one of the longest-running heads of any organization in Central Florida. During her career, she has worked closely with government and elected officials on projects to enhance the International Drive Resort Area and the tourism industry. Under Ms. Triscari’s leadership, the Chamber now boasts hundreds of members and is one of the most active, influential and highly-respected industry organizations in the region.

Tickets and sponsorship information for The Pineapple Ball™ are available online at hospitality.ucf.edu/the-pineapple-ball. For questions about the event, please contact Premila Whitney at 407.903.8020 or premila.whitney@ucf.edu.

About the UCF Rosen College of Hospitality Management

The Rosen College of Hospitality Management at the University of Central Florida, located in Orlando, provides students with an unrivaled opportunity to learn and work in the heart of hospitality. Ranked in the top three hospitality management programs worldwide, Rosen College has been an educational leader for over 30 years. Uniquely positioned in America’s top tourism destination, we educate the next generation of industry leaders through internationally-recognized faculty, innovative academic programs, cutting-edge research and strong industry and community partnerships. To learn more, visit hospitality.ucf.edu.