



Rosen College of Hospitality Management

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Loews Hotels & Co leader, Universal Orlando Resort chief and a late Disney legend to be inducted into The UCF Rosen College Hospitality Hall of Fame®

Barbara Bowden, John Sprouls and Ron Logan will be honored at a ceremony on Thursday, February 23, 2023

Orlando, FL (January 10, 2023) – Two of Central Florida’s hospitality leaders, hotelier Barbara Bowden, and theme parks resort leader John Sprouls, will be recognized on Thursday, February 23, 2023, when they are inducted into the UCF Rosen College of Hospitality Management’s Hospitality Hall of Fame®. A special induction will also be held during the Hospitality Hall of Fame ceremony to honor the late Ron Logan, a UCF Rosen College Professor and Disney legend who passed away in August 2022, after a brief illness. The ceremony to honor the industry leaders will take place in the college’s Darden Auditorium at 6:00 p.m. on the world-class Mediterranean style campus.

Bowden is the Area Managing Director for Loews Hotels at Universal Orlando. She is responsible for the operation of destination’s Premier and Preferred hotels, including Loews Portofino Bay Hotel, Hard Rock Hotel, Loews Royal Pacific Resort and Loews Sapphire Falls Resort. Collectively, these award-winning hotels offer 3,400 guest rooms and nearly 250,000 square feet of connected meeting space at the Loews Meeting Complex at Universal Orlando. A long-time resident of Central Florida, prior to joining Loews Hotels, Bowden served as general manager of the Orange County Convention Center (OCCC), the second largest convention and tradeshow facility in the United States. Before her stint at OCCC, she spent 27 years with The Peabody Orlando, starting as a front desk supervisor and working her way through the ranks to become general manager in 2010, and then vice president in 2013.

Sprouls is Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer for Universal Parks & Resorts, the division of NBC Universal responsible for all worldwide theme park resort and development activities. He oversees Human Resources, Legal, Business Affairs, Risk Management, EHS, Parks Information Technology, Real Estate, Corporate Communications, External Affairs and Community Relations for the Group. Sprouls also serves as Chief Executive Officer of Universal Orlando Resort. Sprouls served on the U.S. Commerce Department’s Tourism and Travel Advisory Board and was its former chairman. He is a member of the U.S. Travel Association CEO Roundtable, and a former member of USTA’s Board of Directors.

Logan, who will be honored posthumously, was an associate professor who taught at UCF Rosen College for a decade. Prior to teaching at the college, Logan worked for The Walt Disney Company for nearly 40 years, starting in the 1960s. He produced live entertainment while serving as president of Disney Theatrical Productions – which included producing the *Beauty and the Beast* musical on Broadway, and around the world. Logan was instrumental in the productions of *Fantasmic!* and the *Indiana Jones Epic Stunt Spectacular!*, which can be seen at Disney’s Hollywood Studios theme park in Orlando, *Festival of the Lion King*, a production at Disney’s Animal Kingdom, and Buffalo Bill’s Wild West Show, plus many more shows across Disney parks worldwide. In 2007, he was recognized as a Disney legend for his significant contributions to the company.

“The hospitality leaders who will be honored this year share a commitment to hospitality, service, and entertainment, that encompasses all we try to teach the future leaders of the industry who attend Rosen College,” said Youcheng Wang, dean of Rosen College. “Their careers and their contributions to the community and travelers around the globe make them exceptional role models for our students. We are extremely excited to induct Barbara Bowden, John Sprouls, and our own Ron Logan into the Hospitality Hall of Fame®.”

In addition to the Hospitality Hall of Fame® honorees, two UCF Rosen College alumni will also be recognized during the Hospitality Hall of Fame®. Frank Hemedl ’18, a human resources business partner at Fun Spot America Theme Parks – Orlando, will be honored with the outstanding young alumnus award, and Dominique Greco ’11, who is the

founder and executive director of Orlando Hospitality Alliance, will be honored with the Distinguished Alumna Award. Greco also served as the City of Orlando's first Nighttime Economy Manager.

The Rosen College of Hospitality Management Hospitality Hall of Fame® is a distinguished group of hospitality and tourism industry leaders who have made a significant impact on Central Florida throughout their professional careers. Since 2007, UCF's Rosen College of Hospitality Management has recognized 26 honorees with induction into the Hospitality Hall of Fame®. New members are selected by consultation with the college's faculty members and industry advisory boards. When the Hospitality Hall of Fame® began, these individuals were officially inducted into at The Pineapple Ball®, during an annual celebration. That event has now evolved into the Rosen College Hospitality Hall of Fame®, as it seeks to recognize industry and academic engagement on a global level.

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About UCF Rosen College of Hospitality Management

UCF Rosen College of Hospitality Management located in Orlando, Florida, offers students an unrivaled opportunity to learn and work in the heart of hospitality. Named the nation's best for hospitality research and education by the Shanghai Rankings, the hospitality college is uniquely positioned to educate the next generation of global hospitality, tourism, events, entertainment and senior living management leaders through internationally recognized faculty, innovative academic programs, cutting-edge research and strong industry and community partnerships. To learn more, visit hospitality.ucf.edu.

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