

# 29th Annual NYU International Hospitality Industry Investment Conference

*Record Number of Attendees in Industry's Banner Year*



Lodging's premier and most prestigious forum, the New York University International Hospitality Industry Investment Conference, hosted by the NYU Tisch Center, welcomed finance and development leaders from around the corner and around the world to Times Square on June 3-5, 2007. Drawing record attendance and sponsorship in its 29th year, the conference featured workshops focused on trends in hospitality finance, design, distribution, operations, and law.

Returning for his thirteenth year as Conference Chair was Jonathan M. Tisch, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Loews Hotels; Office of the President, Loews Corporation. Dorothy Jennings, Executive Vice President of HVS International, is our longtime Conference Coordinator.

The celebrated opening panel, "The CEOs Check In," was again moderated by NYU Tisch Center Dean Lalia Rach and featured leading financial thought and forecasts for the lodging industry. Discussing their approaches in a positive year, the 2007 panelists were:

## **2007 CEOs Check In Panelists**

**Thomas J. Baltimore, Jr.**  
*President, RLJ Development, LLC*

**Andrew Cosslett**  
*Chief Executive Officer, InterContinental Hotels Group PLC*

**Gerald Lawless**  
*Executive Chairman, Jumeirah International*

**Kathleen Taylor**  
*President and Chief Operating Officer,  
Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts*



*Veteran conference leaders Dean Lalia Rach, Jonathan Tisch, and Dorothy Jennings welcome attendees back to Times Square for the latest trends in hotel development*

Thanks to the generosity of our 2007 patrons and sponsors, the Tisch Center awarded the following student scholarships for academic year 2007-08:

### **Patron Scholars**

*Diana Alfonso, M.S. in Hospitality Industry Studies*  
*Samuel Fuerstman, M.S. in Hospitality Industry Studies*  
*Julia A. Park, B.S. In Hotel and Tourism Management*

### **Sponsor Scholars**

*Lauren Baum, M.S. in Sports Business*  
*Nicole DeMuro, B.S. in Sports Management  
and Leisure Studies*  
*Heather Johnson, M.S. in Tourism and Travel Management*

Among the conference highlights was the honoring of the C. Everett Johnson IREFAC Award to Jonathan D. Gray, Senior Managing Director and Co-Head of the Real Estate Group, The Blackstone Group. The *Lodging Hospitality Magazine's* Stephen W. Brener Silver Plate Award was given to Steven A. Rudnitsky, President and Chief Executive Officer, Wyndham Hotel Group. Rudnitsky also moderated the general session panel "Texas Hold 'Em: the Owners Game?"

Delivering the annual "Industry Update" were Mark V. Lomanno, President, Smith Travel Research, and Stephen Rushmore, President and Founder, HVS International. "The Economists' Update" was once again moderated by Dr. Bjorn Hanson, Principal of the Hospitality and Leisure Consulting Practice, PricewaterhouseCoopers. Dr. Hanson is a part-time faculty at the NYU Tisch Center and chair of the Center's advisory board.

Chef and Proprietor of Emeril's Restaurants, Emeril Lagasse, engaged in a one-on-one branding interview with Mr. Tisch in "Open Exchange: Beyond the Boardroom." Michael Fishbin, National Director, Hospitality and Leisure Services, Ernst and Young, moderated the general session panel "Hunting for Deals: More Buyers than Sellers," followed by "Valuing Brands: a Third Party Perspective" moderator Alex Kyriakidis, Global Managing Director for Tourism, Hospitality and Leisure, Deloitte.

NYU Tisch Center students planning careers in conference and event management volunteer at the conference, providing entree to the highest-level executives in the industry and firsthand experience in managing New York University's largest conference.