

## **Alumni Association’s Honorary Alumni of the Year Honorees**

*(presented in Chicago, Illinois)*

**2020** – Nomination postponed.

**2019** – Nomination postponed.

### **2018 Honorary Alumnus of the Year**

Jerome F. “Jerry” Cataldo  
President & Chief Executive Officer, Hostmark Hospitality Group

### **2017 Honorary Alumnus of the Year**

Patrick Donnelly  
General Manager, Hyatt Regency Chicago

### **2016 Honorary Alumnus of the Year**

Grant DePorter  
President & Owner, Harry Caray’s Restaurant Group

### **2015 Honorary Alumnus of the Year**

Ron Vlastic, CHA  
Regional Vice President, Hotels, Kimpton Hotels & Restaurants

### **2014 Honorary Alumnus of the Year**

Hasmukh P. (H.P) Rama  
Chairman of the Board/Chief Executive Officer, JHM Hotels

### **2013 Honorary Alumnus of the Year**

Randy Smith  
Chairman & Co-Founder, Smith Travel Research (STR) Global

### **2012 Honorary Alumnus of the Year**

Michael C. Gibbons  
President, Mainstreet Ventures

### **2011 Honorary Alumni of the Year**

Andrew J.C. Cherng Founder and Chairman Panda Restaurant Group, Inc.	Peggy Tsiang Cherng Co-Chair Panda Restaurant Group, Inc.
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### **2010 Honorary Alumnus of the Year**

James W. Chamberlain  
Senior Vice President & General Manager – Institutional Foodservice, Ecolab, Inc.

**2009 Honorary Alumnus of the Year**

Dan Gordon  
Chief Executive Officer, Gordon Food Service, Inc.

**2008 Honorary Alumnus of the Year**

Robert J. Habeeb  
President and Chief Operating Officer, First Hospitality Group

**2007 Honorary Alumnus of the Year**

Harvey Alpert  
President, Harvey Alpert & Company/Oakfield Farms, Inc

**2006 Honorary Alumnus of the Year**

Richard Melman  
Founder and Chairman, Lettuce Entertain You Enterprises, Inc

**2005 Honorary Alumnus of the Year**

Anthony (Tony) G. Marshall, JD, CHA, CHE  
President, The American Hotel & Lodging Association's Educational Institute

**2004 Honorary Alumnus of the Year**

Robert H. Nelson, CEC, CCE, CFBE, AAC  
Dr. Lewis J. and Mrs. Ruth E. Minor *Chef de Cuisine*  
*The School of Hospitality Business at Michigan State University*

**2003 Honorary Alumnus of the Year**

Michael L. Minor  
Retired Vice President, Nestlé Food Services

**2002 Honorary Alumnus of the Year**

Donald I. Smith  
Former Director, School of Hotel, Restaurant Institutional Management  
Michigan State University

**2001 Honorary Alumni of the Year**

William (Tiny) Zehnder, Jr. Chairman of the Board Frankenmuth Bavarian Inn Restaurant	Dorothy Zehnder Kitchen Manager Frankenmuth Bavarian Inn Restaurant
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**2000 Honorary Alumnus of the Year**

Richard M. Geerdes  
President and Chief Executive Officer, National Automatic Merchandising Association

**1999 Honorary Alumna of the Year**

Theda L. Rudd  
President & Owner, David Rudd Enterprises

**1998 Honorary Alumni of the Year**

Fred Elias Founder Elias Brothers Restaurants, Inc.	Louis Elias Founder Elias Brothers Restaurants, Inc.
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**1997 Honorary Alumnus of the Year**

Herman Cain  
President and Chief Executive Officer, National Restaurant Association

**1996 Honorary Alumnus of the Year**

John H. King, Jr.  
President & Chief Operating Officer, HDS Services

**1995 Honorary Alumnus of the Year**

Michael D. Eisner  
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Walt Disney Company

**1994 Honorary Alumnus of the Year**

Henri Landwirth  
Founder, "Give the Kids the World" Foundation

**1993 Honorary Alumnus of the Year**

N/A

**1992 Honorary Alumnus of the Year**

Donald M. Coe  
President, Hiram Walker & Sons, Inc.

**1991 Honorary Alumnus of the Year**

Harris O. Machus  
Chair Emeritus, Harris O. Machus Enterprises, Inc.

**1990 Honorary Alumnus of the Year**

Michel Roux  
President & Chief Executive Officer, Carillon Importers, Ltd.

**1989 Honorary Alumnus of the Year**

John R. Farquharson  
President, ARASERVE

**1988 Honorary Alumnus of the Year**

Stephen Rushmore  
President, Hospitality Valuation Services, Inc.