

DAY ONE: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2026 / Program



Welcome & Opening Keynote



Welcome Address – General Session 1

Dr. Donna Albano, Eta Sigma Delta (ESD) Board of Governors, Professor of Hospitality, Tourism & Event Management Studies, Stockton University * Dean Arun Upneja, BU School of Hospitality * Dr. Godwin-Charles Ogbeide, ESD Undergraduate Research Symposium, Chair

Introduction to BU School of Hospitality Graduate Programs

Dr. Sean Mullen, Associate Provost for Graduate Affairs, Boston University
Dr. Apostolos Ampountolas, Chair of the Graduate Programs, School of Hospitality



Dr. Donna Albano, Eta Sigma Delta (ESD) Board of Governors
Professor of Hospitality, Tourism & Event Management Studies, Stockton University



Dean Arun Upneja, Boston University,
School of Hospitality Administration

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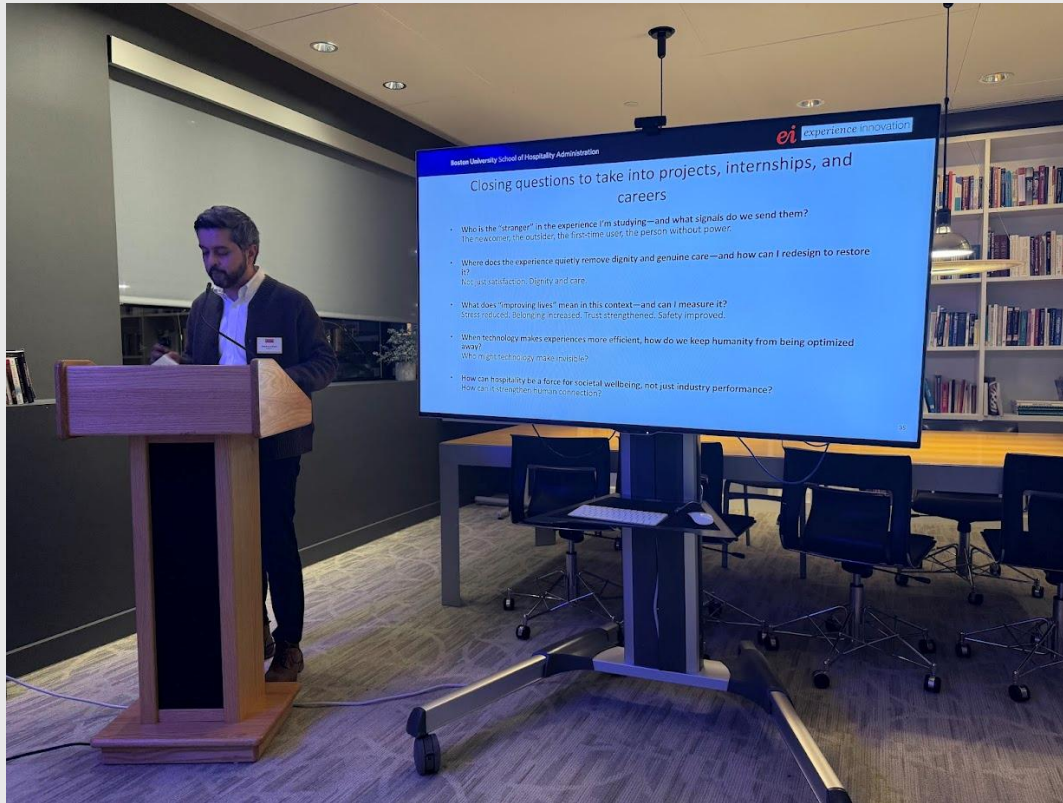
Featured Speaker: Welcome to Boston!



[Dave O'Donnell](#), Vice President of Strategic Communications, [Meet Boston](#), Greater Boston Convention & Visitors Bureau

Keynote Address: Experience Innovation and Applications in Hospitality Research and Practice

[Makarand Mody](#), Associate Professor of Hospitality Marketing; Director, Research; Chair of Undergraduate Programs



Boston University, School of Hospitality Administration, Welcome Table



DAY TWO: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2026

Panel Discussion



-DavidFoxPhotography

Moderated by Professor Sunny Kim BU SHA Adjunct Professors and owners/operators of award-winning Boston restaurants:

- Eli Feldman, Owner of Shy Bird and BU SHA Adjunct Professor
- Lisa Flores, Director of Sales and Marketing, Columbus Hospitality Group and BU SHA Adjunct Professor
- Chris Jamison, CEO, COJE Management Group

Best Paper Awards



**Category: Event Tourism
Hospitality**
Taylor Mickley, Kelly Barr,
and Lali Odosashvili
Widener University



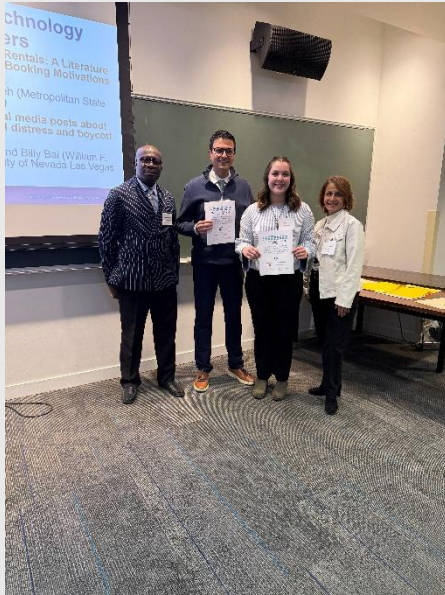
**Category: Hospitality /
HR / Education**
Shruti Meenakshi & Hong
Soon Kim
University of Delaware



**Category: Consumer
Behavior Technology**
Kavon Kisanasammy and Ruth
Smith
Bethune-Cookman University

Meritorious Paper Awards

Consumer Behavior Technology – Meritorious Paper Winners



Alyssa Thornton and Kiyan Shafieizadeh
Metropolitan State University of Denver

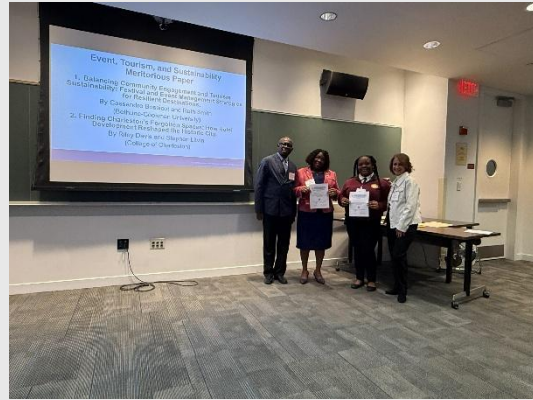


Cass Shum, Wen Jiang, Kira Granito, and Billy Bai
University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV)

Event, Tourism, & Sustainability – Meritorious Paper Winners



Riley Davis and Stephen Litvin
College of Charleston



Cassandre Bossicot and Ruth Smith
Bethune-Cookman University

Hospitality/HR/ Education – Meritorious Paper Winners



Lilija McCallum and Yue Teng-Vaughan
Kansas State University



Nora Skolnik, Matthew McGuire,
Eunseong Jeong, Taylor Garabedian,
and Miran Kim
Michigan State University

Thank you to our sponsors!



Thank you to all the authors, speakers, sponsors, and ICHRIE Staff.
ICHRIE Eta Sigma Delta extends special gratitude to the presenting sponsor of this third ICHRIE ESD Undergraduate Research Symposium, Boston University School of Hospitality Administration.

BU School of Hospitality Administration



100-Year Anniversary
The School of Hospitality Business
Broad College of Business
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY



Rosen College of Hospitality Management
UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA



Participating Universities

Metropolitan State University of Denver
Stephen F Austin State University
Stockton University
Boston University
Bethune-Cookman University
University of South Carolina
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Johnson & Wales University
University of Wyoming
Fort Hays State University

College of Charleston
Kansas State University
Kansas State University
Purdue University
University of Houston
Widener University
Michigan State University
Florida State University
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Florida International University

Paper Review Committee Members

Dr. Jeff Lolli	Widener University
Dr. Phil Jolly	Pennsylvania State University
Dr. Yunmei Bai	Boston University
Dr. Han Wen	University of North Texas
Dr. Godwin-Charles Ogbeide	ESD UGRS Chair

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Dr. Chay Runnels, Stephen F. Austin State University
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Dr. Richard Currie, Boston University
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Dr. Rohit Kanda, Indus International University
Dr. Sean Jung, Boston University
Dr. Shashan Bao, Boston University
Dr. Soona Park, University of North Texas
Dr. Stacey Smith, Fort Hays State University
Dr. Tingting Zhang, University of South Florida
Dr. Yanyan Zheng, University of North Texas
Dr. Yunmei Bai, Boston University



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Boston University – Eta Sigma Delta induction ceremony (ESD chapter advisor Sunny Kim)



UW students pose for a photo outside Boston University's School of Hospitality Administration during the 2026 International Council on Hotel, Restaurant and Institutional Education Eta Sigma Delta Undergraduate Research Symposium. From left are Savannah Avey, Elisabeth Ressler, Kara Waskowiak, Skylar Edmund and Grace Dahill. (UW Photo)