

# Riscigno poured heart into School of Hospitality

By Dave Fiore

Jim Riscigno may have just retired as the executive in residence and director of the Professional Golf Management program at the Florida State University College of Business' Dedman School of Hospitality, but his legacy at the school will continue to affect students and the hospitality field for generations.

The Dedman School would not be what it is today without him. At least that is the opinion of Director Bob Brymer, who says Riscigno's contributions are almost incalculable.

"Jim has brought to FSU a tremendous gift from the Dedman family, and that would not have happened without him," Brymer said. "To this day, it is the single biggest gift to a department at FSU. Had Jim not been involved, it would not have happened."

That gift was a \$7-million contribution from the Robert and Nancy Dedman Foundation to endow the

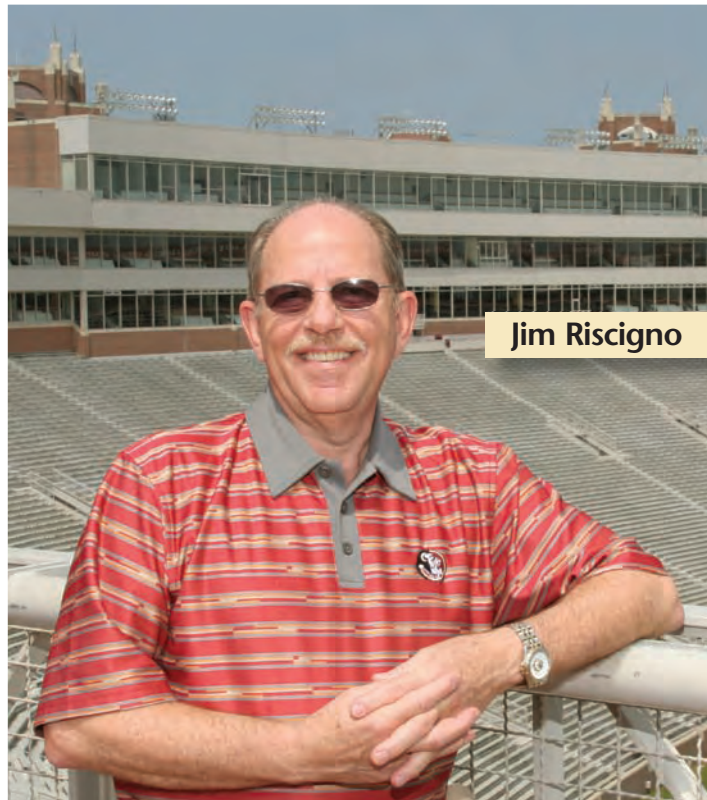
Dedman School of Hospitality (recently renamed the Dedman School of Hospitality Management). It was the third gift from ClubCorp founder Robert Dedman, who had previously given more than \$3 million toward the University Center building fund and as an investment in the establishment of the University Center Club, which is managed by ClubCorp. Including state matching funds, Riscigno's pleas to Dedman resulted in almost \$20 million for FSU.

When he approached Dedman about the \$7-million gift, Riscigno said his pitch was right to the point.

"I said, 'A lot of FSU graduates have helped you make a lot of money. It just makes sense for you to have your name attached to the program,'" Riscigno said.

"The success of the club helps the school. It is a synergistic relationship that is truly a win-win."

The relationship between



FSU Photo Lab/Ryals Lee

At the top of the world: Jim Riscigno at the FSU Dedman School of Hospitality's University Center Club, overlooking Doak S. Campbell Stadium.

FSU and the world leader in private clubs, in which affiliates own or operate nearly 170 golf courses, private clubs and resorts around the world, also

begins with Riscigno.

A 1966 graduate of the FSU School of Business' Hotel and Restaurant Management program, Riscigno spent 30

years working for ClubCorp, retiring from the company as executive vice president and a member of the board. He fulfilled his dream to return to FSU and be a business-minded educator in 2000, teaching the club management curriculum as well as directing the PGA-accredited golf management major.

"I was here less than two years as a student, but I built a loyalty and love for the university that will last my lifetime," Riscigno said. "It is the magic of Florida State — a family that breeds relationships that last forever. I was the first in my family to earn a college degree. I came from a lower middle-class family, and FSU helped change all that for me."

Riscigno and wife Ginger are working to change that for others, as they have given FSU personal gifts that are now valued at more than \$300,000 for student scholarships.