

## **April 17, 2009 – MAT 120**

Hirofumi Leung, Founder, Dragonfly Sushi

Hirofumi Leung graduated from the University of Florida in 1997 with a business degree in Marketing and Economics but his true passion lies in art and design. Growing up in metropolitan areas of Hong Kong and Japan he became incredibly fascinated with business at an early age and decided to pursue a career that incorporated the elements of art, design and business.

After graduating from the University of Florida, Hirofumi flew to Tokyo, to live his dream of working in Japan. Two years later he had the opportunity to interview with a prestigious advertising agency in Chicago. He gave up his dream of working in Tokyo and headed for the Windy City. As fate would have it, he was not hired and was left unemployed. Back in Gainesville and nine years later, he employs a staff of 140 people running the operations of Dragonfly, Rolls `n Bowls and the management company Imagin Asia Restaurant Management Group. His main responsibilities focus on overseeing and developing the operations and growth of these two concepts. In addition to his work, he continues to dream of innovative restaurant concepts that will change the way we see dining into the future.

Imagin Asia takes an employee centered approach that focuses on the growth and development of its people as the number one priority. In addition to winning various culinary accolades, the restaurants are heavily involved with local community charity work. Dragonfly has been voted the best restaurant to dine in "Florida Trend" Magazine and Hirofumi along with his business partner have both been voted the top 40 people under 40 to watch out for by the Gainesville Sun.

Some people would say that business is about rules but Hirofumi disagrees. His vision and attitude is about thinking and playing freely to create opportunities and possibilities never seen before in the dining industry.