

Welcome to the second communique “From the Dean’s Desk”, which is the platform I will be using to share new initiatives, ideas and news of note with you on a bi-weekly basis. Over the coming weeks, the messages will be focusing on the nine strategic initiatives I shared with you at the retreat and the all staff meeting. In this communique, I’d like to focus on the people that make Rosen College what it is, our students, faculty and staff.

Congratulations to Jessica Wickey, who has just been promoted to Program Director of Rosen College’s Professional Internships Program. In last week’s Hospitality Happenings, it was noted that the Internship team and the Career Services team, who jointly developed the Leadership Workshop Series, have been awarded a total of \$20,000 in QEP grants over two years, to support their efforts of bringing great speakers and programs to campus. Jessica, with the help of David Wixted, Giselle Canova and Sheila Perez, has spent many hours planning the Leadership Workshop Series, developing relationships with industry leaders and reaching out to secure opportunities for our students in all aspects of hospitality. Jessica’s dedication to the next generation of hospitality leaders is evident in all that she does. Her promotion is well-deserved. In Fall of 2017, the Leadership Workshop Series reached 2,345 students and in Spring of 2018 they reached 2,192 students



Another member of the Rosen College team is also to be congratulated. Robb Seltzer is now Instructor and Director of Food & Beverage Operations. In the past two years he has been working on developing relationships with a top manufacturer of high-end, innovative culinary equipment, the Meyer Corporation; he has led the charge to develop a culinary medicine program partnership with the college of medicine; and built a strong catering and culinary staff which operates the Rosen College’s kitchen labs flawlessly. Robb has over 30 years of experience managing food service operations including: restaurants, convention centers, stadiums and racetracks; food service distribution and importing; and culinary education.

If you haven’t already done so, please welcome our new faculty members: With the growing number of students in our hospitality, event management, entertainment management and tourism courses, we’ve added five new faculty members. The new faculty are:

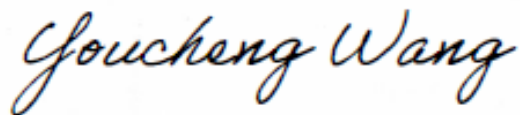
- Sergio Alvarez, who joins us from the Florida Department of Agriculture and

- Consumer Services and will be working with the Coastal Cluster
- Dr. Sean Bliznik, who joins us from Arizona State University at Tempe as part of the faculty for the event and entertainment management curriculum
 - Dr. Arthur Huang, who has been a research professor of Civil Engineering at Texas A&M University-Stephenville and is also joining the Coastal Cluster
 - Felice Jones from Georgetown University who is joining the event management faculty bringing to it her experience with the National Football League Players Inc.
 - Dr. Yun Ying (Susan) Zhong, who will be focusing on our senior living curriculum.

During the past week, I've had the opportunity to participate in the Get Your Grill On event, where our students were able to meet with on-campus clubs and organizations and learn about getting more engaged and involved in Rosen College and UCF. This event demonstrated how poised our students are and how well they excel in communications. I had a chance to spend some time with Knightro at the event... GoKnights!

Finally, some news about UCF. The University has been Named No. 10 Most Innovative University in Nation. *U.S. News & World Report* ranks UCF above Harvard, Princeton, Duke and Johns Hopkins as most innovative in its annual list of best colleges. <https://today.ucf.edu/ucf-named-no-10-most-innovative-university-in-nation/>. This is UCF's third time on the list, and first time in the top 10. We are the only school in Florida to be included on the list that ranks schools based on "innovative improvements in terms of curriculum, faculty, students, campus life, technology or facilities." UCF is also ranked No. 33 in the nation for least amount of student debt load at graduation. Isn't it great to be a part of such a highly ranked university.

Though this communique is limited in space, I just wanted to mention a few of the people who make a difference here at Rosen College. I am honored to be around so many passionate, talented and committed people who make up our great institution. I look forward to sharing great things with you...Charge On!



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