

CYNTHIA MEJIA, Ph.D.

9907 Universal Boulevard, Orlando, FL 32819
Cynthia.Mejia@ucf.edu | (407) 903-8191

EDUCATION

- 2013 Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas, Ph.D., Hospitality Administration
- 2010 University of Nevada Las Vegas, Nevada, M.H.A.
- 1993 The Culinary Institute of America, Hyde Park, New York, A.O.S., Occupational Studies
- 1991 California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, California, B.S., Biochemistry

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

UCF Rosen College of Hospitality Management, Orlando, FL

- 2019-present Associate Professor & Interim Chair, Department of Foodservice & Lodging Management
- 2013-2019 Assistant Professor, Department of Foodservice & Lodging Management

Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX

- 2010-2013 Graduate Instructor

RESEARCH

Refereed Journal Publications

1. **Mejia, C.** (2018). Influencing green technology use behavior in the hospitality industry and the role of the “green champion”. *Journal of Hospitality Marketing & Management* [published online 29 October 2018]. DOI: 10.1080/19368623.2019.1539935
2. Flammia, M., Sadri, H., & **Mejia, C.** (Accepted with Revisions). An internationalization project to develop global competency across the disciplines. *International Journal of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education*.
3. **Mejia, C.** (2018). Wheelchair friendliness versus compliance in the hospitality industry. *Journal of Hospitality & Tourism Cases*, 7(3), 19-26.
4. **Mejia, C.**, Wei, W., Fu, X., Hua, N., & Wang, Y. (2018). Hospitality and tourism experts’ perspectives on Chinese outbound tourists’ U.S. service expectations. *International Journal of Tourism Research*, online 17 June 2018.
5. **Mejia, C.**, Wang, Y., & Zhao, X. (2018). The impact of personal and professional guanxi relationships on Leader-Member Exchange in the Chinese hotel industry. *International Journal of Hospitality & Tourism Administration*. DOI: 10.1080/15256480.2018.1429340
6. **Mejia, C.** & Torres, E. (2018). Implementation and normalization process of asynchronous video interviewing practices in the hospitality industry. *International Journal of Contemporary Hospitality Management*, 30(2), 685-701.
7. **Mejia, C.**, Hua, N., Wei, W., Fu, X., & Wang, Y. (2017). The promise of the 2016 USA-China Tourism Year: Strategies to boost tourism exchange. [Short Communication]. *Journal of Destination Marketing & Management*. DOI: 10.1016/j.jdmm.2017.02.005
8. Torres, E. & **Mejia, C.** (2017). Asynchronous video interviews in the hospitality industry: Considerations for virtual employee selection. *International Journal of Hospitality Management*, 61, 4-13.
9. Kim, J.-S., **Mejia, C.**, & Connolly, D. J. (2017). Tablets and tablet apps: What do hotel customers want? *International Journal of Hospitality & Tourism Administration*, 1-27.

10. Nan, H., **Mejia, C.**, & Wei, W. (*In Press, 2017*). A new age of acquisitions in hospitality & tourism: The bidding war to acquire Starwood. *Journal of Hospitality & Tourism Cases*, 6(4).
11. Cobos, L., **Mejia, C.**, Ozturk, A., & Wang, Y. (2016). A technology adoption and implementation process in an independent hotel chain. *International Journal of Hospitality Management*, 57, 93-105.
12. Torres, E., Gregory, A., & **Mejia, C.** (2016). Interviews on demand: A case study of the implementation of asynchronous video interviews. *Journal of Hospitality & Tourism Cases*, 5(3).
13. **Mejia, C.**, Aday, J. B., Phelan, K. V., & Yi, X. (2016). Subordinates' perceptions of Western expatriate hotel managers in China: The effects of conflict avoidance. *Journal of Human Resources in Hospitality & Tourism*, 15(4), 388-415.
14. **Mejia, C.** & Lavendol, V. (2015). Who's the boss?: Millennials managing across generations in the hospitality industry. *Journal of Hospitality & Tourism Cases*, 4(2), 11-20. [**Second Place Johnson & Wales Case Study Competition, 2014**].
15. **Mejia, C.**, Aday, J. B., & Phelan, K. V. (2015). Framework for success: Western expatriate managers in the Chinese hotel industry. *Journal of Human Resources in Hospitality & Tourism*, 14(2), 107.
16. Phelan, K. V. & **Mejia, C.** (2015). What they expect and why we should care: Students' perspectives on hospitality faculty industry experience. *Journal of Teaching in Travel & Tourism*, 15(1), 1-17.
17. **Mejia, C.** & Phelan, K. V. (2014). Hospitality instructors' preference for blended learning: A bridge to full online course delivery? *Journal of Teaching in Travel & Tourism*, 14(4), 343-364.
18. **Mejia, C.** & Phelan, K. V. (2014). Academic referent group influences on hospitality students' intentions to enroll in an online course. *Journal of Hospitality & Tourism Education*, 26(2), 65-74.
19. **Mejia, C.** & Phelan, K. V. (2014). Examining the role of the facilities manager: A seat at the table for the keeper of the capital investment. *Journal of Hospitality & Tourism Cases*, 3(1), 30-37.
20. **Mejia, C.** & Phelan, K. V. (2013). Normative factors influencing hospitality instructors to teach online. *Journal of Hospitality, Leisure, Sport & Tourism Education*, 13, 168-179.
21. **Mejia, C.** & Phelan, K. V. (2013). Communication, documentation, & HRM: The case of the non-compliant kitchen employee. *Journal of Hospitality & Tourism Cases*, 2(1). [Online]. [**First place Johnson & Wales Case Study Competition, 2012**].
22. Phelan, K. V., **Mejia, C.**, & Hertzman, J. (2013). The industry experience gap: Hospitality Faculty Perceptions of the Importance of Faculty Industry Experience. *Journal of Hospitality and Tourism Education*, 25(3), 123-130.

Non-Refereed Publication

Mejia, C. (2018). Fostering metacognition with online video reflection. *UCF Faculty Focus*, 17(2), 31-33.

Book

Murphy, K. S., Rivera, M., **Mejia, C.**, Cobos, L. (2017) *Experiences Outside the Classroom: The Value of Hospitality Study Abroad Externship Experiences*. Florence, Italy, FUA Press.

Grant Proposal Writing (Self-Directed Funding Secured: \$20,500 UCF)

UCF Internal Grants

1. UCF LIFE 2017 – 2018. *Hospitality and Leisure Factors Attracting Retirees to Senior Living Communities*. Principle Investigator: **Mejia, C.** Budget: \$3,848/Not Funded
2. Rosen College Research Grant 2017-2018. *Hospitality Service Quality within Senior Living*. Principle Investigator: **Mejia, C.** Budget: \$2500/FUNDED

3. UCF ORC Mentoring Award Program 2017 – 2018. *The Retirement Research Foundation Grant*. Mentee: **Mejia, C.**/Mentor: Wang, Y. Budget: \$2000/FUNDED; \$1000 pending grant award
4. UCF International Affairs and Global Strategies: Develop Faculty-Led Research Abroad 2015/16. *Undergraduate Research Abroad in the Chinese Hospitality Industry*. Principle Faculty: **Mejia, C.** Budget: \$3000/FUNDED
5. Rosen College Research Grant 2015-2016. *Sense of Place in the Emerging Chinese Senior Living Market*. Principle Investigator: **Mejia, C.** Budget: \$2500/Not Funded
6. UCF Rosen College Timeshare Advisory Board Faculty Research Grant. *Optimizing Asynchronous Video Interviewing Practices In the Service Industries*. **Mejia, C. & Torres, E.**, Co-Investigators. Budget: \$500/FUNDED
7. University of Central Florida In-House Grant 2014-2015. *Delivering Hospitality in Mainland China's Senior Housing Sector*. Principle Investigator: **Mejia, C.** Budget: \$7500/FUNDED
8. Rosen College Research Grant 2014-2015. *Hospitality and Leisure Factors Attracting Chinese Citizens to a Developing Retirement Model in Mainland China: A Case Study Approach*. Principle Investigator: **Mejia, C.** Budget: \$2500/FUNDED
9. Rosen College Research Grant 2013-2014. *Worker Retention in the Chinese Hospitality Industry: The Connection Between Leader-Member Exchange, Guanxi, and Face*. Principle Investigator: **Mejia, C.** Budget: \$2500/FUNDED

External Grants

1. Lumina Foundation 2018 LOI. *UCF Rosen College Student Success and Engagement Center*. Blackmon, V., **Mejia, C.**, & Bryant, T. Budget: \$263,336 Under Review
2. Fundacion MAPFRE, Primitivo de Vega 2018. *Improving Senior Living Service Quality in Caring for the Elderly*. Principle Investigator: **Mejia, C.** Co-Investigator: Severt, D. Budget: €14,669/Not Funded
3. Retirement Research Foundation 2018. *Hospitality Service Quality Training for Senior Living Professionals*. Principle Investigator: **Mejia, C.** Budget: \$49,920/Not Funded
4. U.S. Embassy Havana Grants Program. *Using Tourism as a Vehicle for Sustainable Economic Development and Entrepreneurship in Cienfuegos, Cuba*. Wang, Y., **Mejia, C.**, & Torres, E., Co-Investigators. Budget: \$98,761/Not Funded
5. Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange: Jr. Scholars 2016. *The Significance of Leisure and 'Sense of Place' in the Chinese Senior Living Sector*. **Mejia, C.**, Wu, H. C., & Lu, J. Budget: \$29,665/Not Funded.
6. SHRM Foundation Research Grant 2014/2015. *Optimizing Asynchronous Video Interviewing Practices for the Service Industries*. Torres, E. & **Mejia, C.**, Co-Investigators. Budget: \$84,422/Not Funded
7. Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange: 3rd World Research Summit for Tourism and Hospitality/1st USA-China Tourism Research Summit. Principle Investigator: Wang, Y.; Co-Investigator: **Mejia, C.** Budget: \$24,960/Not Funded
8. Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange: Junior Scholar Grant 2015. *Potential of Hospitality & Leisure Services in China's Growing Senior Housing Sector*. Principle Investigator: **Mejia, C.** Budget: \$29,741/Not Funded
9. FY13 Internal Competitive Funding Opportunity to Advance Scholarship in the Creative Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, Texas Tech University 2013. *Examining Cultural Sensitivity for Expatriates Working in Chinese-Based Hotels*. Principle Investigator: Phelan, K.V./Co-investigator: **Mejia, C.** Budget: \$19,850/FUNDED
10. Lubbock Area Foundation 2012. *After-School Music Program for Guadalupe-Parkway Neighborhood Centers, Lubbock, Texas*. Authors: Aday, B. & **Mejia, C.** Budget: \$5000/Not Funded
11. Caesar's Hospitality Research Center Grant Award Program 2012. *Examining Cultural Sensitivity & Predictors of Success for Expatriates Working in Chinese-Based Hotels*. Principle Investigators: Phelan, K.V. & Goh, B.; Co-investigators: **Mejia, C. & Kiatkiri, S.** Budget: \$50,000/Not Funded

12. Harrah Hospitality Research Center Grant Award Program 2011. *Examining Hourly Employees' Perceptions of Organizational Learning Culture*. Principle Investigator: Phelan, K.V./Co-investigator: **Mejia, C.** Budget: \$50,000/Not Funded

Refereed Conference Proceedings

1. **Mejia, C.** (2019). Toward humanizing an online hospitality course with VoiceThread. *2019 Sunshine State Teaching & Learning Conference*. Daytona Beach, Florida, 31 January 2019.
2. Flammia, M., Sadri, H., & **Mejia, C.** (2019). Using a cultural interview to teach mindfulness across the disciplines. *2019 The International Society for the Social Studies*. Orlando, Florida, 21-22 February 2018.
3. **Mejia, C.** & Severt, D. (2018). Construct expansion and validation of empathy in a senior living SERVQUAL model. *ICHRIE 2018 Annual Conference*, Palm Springs, CA, July 25 – 27, 2018.
4. Zemke, D. & **Mejia, C.** (2018). The Wheelchair Jimmy project: Teaching ADA friendliness vs. compliance. *ICHRIE Symposium Workshop: 2018 Annual Conference*, Palm Springs, CA, July 25 – 27, 2018.
5. Flammia, M., Sadri, H., & **Mejia, C.** (2018). Internationalizing the curriculum through interdisciplinary collaboration. *2018 The International Society for the Social Studies*. Orlando, Florida, 22-23 February 2018.
6. **Mejia, C.**, Wei, W., & Wang, Y. (2017). The value of cross-cultural experiential learning to students' intercultural adaptation in the hospitality and tourism education context. *2nd USA-China Tourism Research Summit and Industry Dialogue*. Orlando, Florida, 8 December 2017.
7. **Mejia, C.**, Wei, W., & Wang, Y. (2017). The effects of a personal learning environment on learning outcomes during a study abroad program: A quasi-ethnographic approach. *4th World Research Summit for Tourism and Hospitality: Innovation, Partnerships, & Sharing*. Orlando, Florida, 8 – 11 December, 2017.
8. Flammia, M., Sadri, H., & **Mejia, C.** (2017). Enhancing students' global competency: Using an interview assignment across the disciplines. *2017 The International Society for the Social Studies*. Orlando, Florida, 23-24 February 2017.
9. Kaufman, T. & **Mejia, C.** (2016). Developing a predictive model for success in online learning. *Lily Conference on Designing Effective Teaching: Creating Innovative Learning Experiences in Higher Education*. August 1-3, Asheville, North Carolina.
10. Murphy, K., Rivera, M., **Mejia, C.**, & Cobos, L. (2016). European Hospitality Study Abroad Externship: The Value of Experiential Learning. *Euro CHRIE*, October 26-28, Budapest, Hungary.
11. **Mejia, C.** (2016). A place for senior living in hospitality management research. *2nd Global Tourism & Hospitality Conference and Asia Tourism Forum*, Hong Kong, 16 –18 May 2016. [**Conference Best Paper Award, sponsored by the Journal of Quality Assurance in Hospitality & Tourism**].
12. Wei, W., **Mejia, C.**, & Wang, Y. (2016) The role of engagement and copresence among Chinese travelers using social media. *2nd Global Tourism & Hospitality Conference and Asia Tourism Forum*, Hong Kong, 16 –18 May 2016.
13. **Mejia, C.**, Wei, W., & Wang, Y. (2016). Are you with me? Examining the driving factors for copresence in WeChat among Chinese tourists. *14th APacCHRIE Conference: Crisis Management and Business Continuity in the Tourism Industry*. Bangkok, Thailand, 11-13 May 2016.
14. **Mejia, C.**, Wang, Y., Lu, J., & Wang, K. (2016). The emergence of senior living in Mainland China: Hospitality and service standards. *14th APacCHRIE Conference: Crisis Management and Business Continuity in the Tourism Industry*. Bangkok, Thailand, 11-13 May 2016.
15. **Mejia, C.** & Kiatkiri, S. (2016). Leisure or career travel influences on expatriates' destination retirement choice in Southeast Asia. *14th APacCHRIE Conference: Crisis Management and Business Continuity in the Tourism Industry*. Bangkok, Thailand, 11-13 May 2016.
16. Murphy, K., Rivera, M., **Mejia, C.**, & Cobos, L. (2016). Experiences outside the classroom: The value of hospitality study abroad externships for Chinese students in the Disney College Program.

- 14th APacCHRIE Conference: Crisis Management and Business Continuity in the Tourism Industry.* Bangkok, Thailand, 11-13 May 2016.
17. Flammia, M., Sadri, H., & **Mejia, C.** (2016). Interdisciplinary approaches to global education: Strategies for internationalizing the curriculum. *Annual Conference for the International Society for the Social Studies 2016.* Orlando, FL, 25-26 February 2016.
 18. Wang, W., Ying, S., & **Mejia, C.** (2015). Blogging about the niche hotel sector in China: Post-consumption differentiation between self-image and functional congruity. *3rd World Research Summit for Tourism & Hospitality and 1st USA-China Tourism Research Summit: Transforming Partnerships 2015,* Orlando, FL, 15-19 December 2015.
 19. **Mejia, C.** & Torres, E. (2015). Asynchronous video interviewing practices in the hospitality industry: Qualitative pilot test utilizing UTAUT. *3rd World Research Summit for Tourism & Hospitality and 1st USA-China Tourism Research Summit: Transforming Partnerships 2015,* Orlando, FL, 15-19 December 2015.
 20. Kaufman, T. & **Mejia, C.** (2015). Evening the playing field in the online classroom. *Teaching Professor Technology Conference,* New Orleans, LA, October 2 – 4, 2015.
 21. Torres, E. & **Mejia, C.** (2015). Examining the effectiveness of asynchronous video interviews in the hospitality industry. *ICHRIE 2015 Annual Conference,* Orlando, FL, July 29 – 31, 2015.
 22. **Mejia, C.** (2015). Teaching sustainable decision making to hospitality operations managers: A purchasing assignment perspective. *Invited speaker (Teaching Track), ICHRIE 2015 Annual Conference,* Orlando, FL, July 29 – 31, 2015.
 23. **Mejia, C.** & Lavendol, V. (2014). Who's the boss?: Millennials managing across generations in the hospitality industry. [**Second Place Johnson & Wales Case Study Competition, 2014**]. *ICHRIE 2014 Annual Conference,* San Diego, CA, July 30 – August 1, 2014.
 24. **Mejia, C.** (2014). What is service learning? *Invited speaker (Teaching Track), ICHRIE 2014 Annual Conference,* San Diego, CA, July 30 – August 1, 2014.
 25. **Mejia, C.**, Wang, Y., & Zhou, Y.-Q. (2014). Case study of hotel job information sources in Hangzhou, China: A social networking perspective. *Global Tourism & Hospitality Conference and Asia Tourism Forum,* Hong Kong, 18-20 May 2014.
 26. **Mejia, C.** & Wang, Y. (2014). Turnover among Chinese hotel workers: The relationship between societal protocols, LMX, and job satisfaction. *Global Tourism & Hospitality Conference and Asia Tourism Forum,* Hong Kong, 18-20 May 2014.
 27. **Mejia, C.**, Aday, J. B., & Phelan, K. (2013). Strategies for recruiting and retaining local talent in the hotel industry in Mainland China. *2nd World Research Summit for Tourism and Hospitality: Crossing the Bridge,* Orlando, FL, 15—17 December 2013.
 28. Aday, J. B., **Mejia, C.**, & Phelan, K. (2013). [**Best Paper Award, 3rd Place**]. The declining importance of guanxi ties between Chinese hotel workers and Western expatriate managers. *2nd World Research Summit for Tourism and Hospitality: Crossing the Bridge,* Orlando, FL, 15—17 December 2013.
 29. **Mejia, C.** & Phelan, K. V. (2013). Expansion of online learning in hospitality management programs: Who influences students to enroll in an online course? *ICHRIE 2013 Annual Conference,* St. Louis, MO, July 24—27, 2013.
 30. **Mejia, C.** & Phelan, K. V. (2012). Communication, documentation, and HRM: The case of the non-compliant kitchen employee. [**First place Johnson & Wales Case Study Competition, 2012**]. *ICHRIE 2012 Annual Conference,* Providence, Rhode Island, August 1-4, 2012.
 31. **Mejia, C.**, Phelan, K. V., and Hertzman, J. (2012). Does experience matter?: Examining student and faculty perceptions of the importance of hospitality industry experience. *ICHRIE 2012 Annual Conference,* Providence, Rhode Island, August 1-4, 2012.
 32. **Mejia, C.** & Phelan, K. V. (2012). Importance of industry experience among hospitality faculty in higher education: A pilot study. *17th Annual Graduate Education and Graduate Student Research Conference in Hospitality and Tourism,* Auburn, Alabama, January 5-7, 2012.

Refereed Posters

1. **Mejia, C.** (2015). Testing a social media-technology acceptance model to improve student collaboration in a hospitality course project. *ICHRIE 2015 Annual Conference*, Orlando, FL, July 29 – 31, 2015.
2. **Mejia, C. & Wang, Y.** (2015). Hospitality and leisure factors attracting Chinese citizens to a developing retirement model in Mainland China. *ICHRIE 2015 Annual Conference*, Orlando, FL, July 29 – 31, 2015.
3. Hertzman, J., **Mejia, C.**, & Monteiro, H. (2015). Determining the demand for a hospitality graduate-level supply chain management curriculum. *ICHRIE 2015 Annual Conference*, Orlando, FL, July 29 – 31, 2015.
4. **Mejia, C.** (2014). Increased student satisfaction through the use of ‘Storify’ curation software in a hospitality course project. *ICHRIE 2014 Annual Conference*, San Diego, CA, July 30 – August 1, 2014.
5. **Mejia, C. & Wang, Y.** (2014). The mediating role of LMX between societal protocols and retention of hotel workers in China: A qualitative investigation. *ICHRIE 2014 Annual Conference*, San Diego, CA, July 30 – August 1, 2014.
6. **Mejia, C. & Phelan, K. V.** (2014). Getting them ready for China: Preparing higher education students for global competence in the hospitality industry. *ICHRIE 2014 Annual Conference*, San Diego, CA, July 30 – August 1, 2014.
7. **Mejia, C. & Phelan, K. V.** (2013). Declining guanxi ties among young Chinese hotel workers and the effect on western expatriate managers. *ICHRIE 2013 Annual Conference*, St. Louis, MO, July 24—27, 2013.
8. **Mejia, C. & Phelan, K. V.** (2012). Who will be teaching hospitality management?: The effects of the impending change on the importance of faculty industry experience. *ICHRIE 2012 Annual Conference*, Providence, Rhode Island, August 1-4, 2012.
9. **Mejia, C. & Phelan, K. V.** (2012). The impact of industry experience on hospitality management programs: A qualitative assessment of department chairs. *ICHRIE 2012 Annual Conference*, Providence, Rhode Island, August 1-4, 2012.
10. **Mejia, C. & Phelan, K. V.** (2012). Measuring hospitality instructors’ attitudes toward a new online curriculum: An application of the TAM2 model. *17th Annual Graduate Education and Graduate Student Research Conference in Hospitality and Tourism*, Auburn, Alabama, January 5-7, 2012.
11. **Mejia, C. & Phelan, K. V.** (2011). Importance of industry experience among hospitality faculty in higher education: A pilot study. *ICHRIE 2011 Annual Conference*, Denver, Colorado, July 27-30, 2011.
12. **Mejia, C.** (2011). Existence of the culture of learning from the perspective of hourly hospitality employees. *16th Annual Graduate Education and Graduate Student Research Conference in Hospitality and Tourism*, Houston, Texas, January 6-8, 2011.
13. **Mejia, C.** (2011). Importance of industry experience among hospitality faculty in higher education. *16th Annual Graduate Education and Graduate Student Research Conference in Hospitality and Tourism*, Houston, Texas, January 6-8, 2011.

Press Release

Wang, Y., **Mejia, C.**, Wei, W., Hua, N., & Fu, X. (2016). Researchers at UCF Rosen College of Hospitality Management eye strategies to boost USA-China tourism. *Press release UCF Rosen College*.

Curriculum Development

Mejia, C. (2011). Allergen Aware curriculum. *The International School of Hospitality*, Las Vegas, Nevada, July 2011. Curriculum designed to teach allergen awareness in hotels and restaurants.

TEACHING

UCF Rosen College of Hospitality Management, Orlando, FL

Fall 2013-present

Techniques of Food Preparation: FSS 2221C teaches the basic principles and practice of food and beverage preparation, service, and menu development. (Face-to-Face)

Culture & Cuisine: FSS 3008 addresses the major historical and geographical developments that have affected the creation of the cuisines of the world. (Mixed Mode)

Food Supply Chain Management: [Formally: Supply & Procurement Management] FSS 3124 focuses on purchasing procedures, specifications, and controls of food and related products in the hospitality industry. (Mixed Mode)

Hospitality Facilities Management: HFT 4343 addresses the managerial principles of facility planning, layout and design, as well as the physical plant characteristics for hotels, timeshares and shared ownership properties, restaurants and foodservice, and other hospitality related venues. (Mixed Mode and Full Online)

Summer 2017

Culture & Cuisine, UCF-Rosen College Study Abroad to China: Co-instructor for the first UCF study abroad program to China consisting of 3 weeks of travel with visits to Beijing, Xi'an, Hangzhou, Suzhou, and Shanghai. (Face-to-Face)

Spring 2018 & 2015

Culture & Cuisine, Continuing Education Disney Cohort: Addressing the major historical and geographical developments that have affected the creation of cuisines of the world with a focus on the United States. Taught to international undergraduate students from China and South Korea. (Face-to-Face)

Summer 2017

Culture & Cuisine, Continuing Education Kyung Hee University: Addressing the major historical and geographical developments that have affected the creation of cuisines of the world with a focus on the Americas. Taught to international undergraduate hospitality students from Kyung Hee University, South Korea. (Face-to-Face)

Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX

Fall 2011-2013

Food Systems Management 1: Lecture & Laboratory: RHIM 3460 studies the application of scientific food preparation, along with the managerial principles of food production in a commercial environment. (Face-to-Face)

Summer 2012

Human Resources in the Service Industry: RHIM 3358 addresses the primary functions of human resource management as they pertain to the service industry. Areas covered include employment law, workforce design, staffing, training, evaluation, safety, ethics, & CSR. (Full Online)

Le Cordon Bleu Institute of Culinary Arts, Dallas, TX

2009-2010: *Culinary Foundations 1-3; Sanitation; Nutrition; Purchasing; Garde Manger*

Instructor of Self Defense for Women, 1991-1996: California and New York

FACULTY ADVISING & TRAINING

Thesis & Dissertation Committees

1. Master Thesis Committee Chair for Libardo Lambrano, *UCF Rosen College of Hospitality Management, 2018/2019*
2. Graduate Consultant for Shun (Sherry) Ying, *Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, China, Spring 2016*
3. Dissertation Committee for Marissa Orlowski, *UCF Rosen College of Hospitality Management, 2014/15*
4. Undergraduate Honors Thesis Committee for Lauren Doyle, *UCF Department of Sociology, 2015*

Teaching Training

Karen L. Smith Faculty Center for Teaching & Learning

University of Central Florida, Orlando, Florida

- 2019 UCF Summer Faculty Development Conference, \$800 awarded
- 2019 UCF Peer Review CIP, \$500 grant awarded
- 2018 UCF Winter Faculty Development Conference, \$500 grant awarded
- 2018 Spring Course Innovation Project: Enhancing Active Learning Using Webcourses @UCF
- 2016 UCF Winter Faculty Development Conference, \$500 grant awarded
- 2015 UCF Summer Faculty Development Conference, \$800 grant awarded
- 2014 UCF Winter Faculty Development Conference, \$500 grant awarded
- 2014 UCF Summer Faculty Development Conference, \$800 grant awarded

UCF Center for Distributed Learning

Professional Development, Fall 2014

- IDL6543: An award-winning course for web-based instruction, 80 hours

ICHRIE Career Advancement Academy

Research Consortium: St. Louis, Missouri, Summer 2013 & Providence, Rhode Island, Summer 2012

Teaching Consortium

- Bangkok, Thailand, Summer 2016 [How to Write a Case Study for JHTC]
- Orlando, FL, Summer 2015 [Purchasing Course Project]
- San Diego, CA, Summer 2014 [Service Learning]

The Teaching, Learning, and Professional Development Center

Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas

Fall 2012

- John M. Burns Conference
- Accessibility 101: ADA Compliance for Your Online Course
- Jumpstart 2012: A Different School of Thought: Working with Today's Students

Spring 2012

- What the Best Teachers Do: Getting Students to Work Harder
- I Can Show it to You Better than I Can Explain it to You: Exemplifying Excellence in the Large Lecture Classroom
- From Lecture to Rapture: A Practical Approach to Transforming Lecture-Based Courses
- EndNote Web Research and Writing Web-Based Tool

Summer 2011

- Blackboard: Fundamentals
- Blackboard: Managing Students and the Grade Book

Spring 2011

TEACH Lunch Series: “Getting Students to Read”

Fall 2010

Talking on Tweet: Incorporating Twitter into the Classroom

Teaching Large Sections: Tips from the Air Force Academy

SERVICE ACTIVITIES

Academic Journals

1. Editorial Review Board, *Journal of Hospitality & Tourism Cases*
2. *Tourism Management*, Reviewer
3. *International Journal of Hospitality Management*, Reviewer
4. *International Journal of Contemporary Hospitality Management*, Reviewer
5. *Journal of Hospitality & Tourism Research*, Reviewer
6. *Journal of Hospitality Marketing & Management*, Reviewer
7. *Asia Pacific Journal of Tourism Research*, Reviewer
8. *Journal of Hospitality & Tourism Cases*, Reviewer
9. *Journal of Hospitality & Tourism Technology*, Reviewer

Academic Conferences

1. Co-Chair, Organizing Committee, *2nd USA-China Tourism Research Summit/Industry Dialogue 2017*
2. Chair, *Women’s Hospitality Leadership Forum 2015 & 2017*, UCF Rosen College
3. Member, Logistics Committee, *2nd, 3rd, & 4th World Research Summit for Tourism & Hospitality*, Orlando, FL (2013, 2015, 2017)
4. Scientific Committee, *2nd, 3rd, & 4th World Research Summit for Tourism & Hospitality*, Orlando, FL
5. Scientific Committee, *3rd & 4th International Augmented and Virtual Reality Conference*
6. ICHRIE Annual Conference, Reviewer
7. APTA Conference, Reviewer

University of Central Florida Appointments

2018	Committee Member, UCF Believe Faculty & Staff Campaign
2017- present	UCF Library Committee (Chairperson - 2017)
2017	Chairperson, UCF VPR Advancement of Early Career Researchers 2017-2018
2014-2016	UCF Faculty and Staff Live United Campaign: Tasting Events at Rosen College
2014	UCF Women Faculty Excellence in Partnerships with Sysco Central Florida
2015-2016	UCF Assistant Professor Mentoring Program, Dr. Robin Back

UCF Rosen College Appointments

2016-2017	Member, Faculty Research Committee
2014-2015	Faculty Search Committee, UCF Rosen College of Hospitality Management
2014-2016	Academic Advisor, National Society of Minorities in Hospitality, UCF Chapter
Spring 2014	Committee Member, UCF Rosen College Doctoral Admission Committee
2013-present	Committee Member, UCF Rosen College Culinary Committee
Fall 2013-present	Committee Member, UCF Rosen College, <i>Planning, Advisory, & Assessment</i>

Department of Foodservice and Lodging, UCF Rosen College Appointments

2015	<i>Rosen College in the Kitchen</i> Culinary Video Series for FSS2221C – 29 Videos
2015	Liaison for Rosen Culinary Technology Hardware & Software Upgrade

Professional Service

Fall 2018 Invited Panelist, HHRA Orlando Florida, November 13, 2018. Caribe Royale Resort
 2013-2017 CFHLA Bacchus Bash Committee Member, Rosen College Liaison

Community Outreach

Fall 2018: Invited Speaker Freedom High School, Orlando, FL “Teach-In” November 14, 2018
 Fall 2017: Invited Speaker, Boys & Girls Club Hospitality Day, Orlando, FL
 Spring 2014: Speaker, Colonial High School, Orlando, FL: *Emerging Hospitality Careers*
 Fall 2012-2010: Texas Tech University Grade School Girls’ Program to Prepare for College: Annual one-day session, taught grade school girls about the hospitality industry
 Fall 2012: First Annual Lubbock Wines & Vines Festival: Hub City Master Chef Competition Judge
 Summer 2012: Volunteer 2012 Texas 4-H Roundup. 4-H Texas State Finals Culinary Competition
 Spring 2012: Taste of Texas Wine Pairing Dinner for RHIM Corporate Recruiters

Membership

2018-present National Restaurant Association
 2018-present Central Florida Hospitality Human Resources Association (HHRA)
 2013-present Central Florida Hotel & Lodging Association
 2015-2016 Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM)
 2012-present International Council on Hotel, Restaurant and Institutional Education (ICHRIE)

Press

1. <https://hospitality.ucf.edu/2016/06/02/professor-cynthia-mejia-receives-best-paper-award-for-senior-living-in-hospitality-management-research/>
2. <https://hospitality.ucf.edu/2017/08/01/korean-students-study-hospitality-for-four-weeks-at-ucf-rosen-college-of-hospitality-management/>
3. <https://www.hospitalitynet.org/news/4080753.html>
4. <http://centralfloridatop5.com/tag/rosen-college-of-hospitality-management/>
5. <http://perspectivemagazine.com/010520153384/womens-hospitality-leadership-forum-a-first-but-not-the-last-for-orlando>
6. <http://www.bowlingdigital.com/bowl/node/12983>
7. <https://allevents.in/orlando/spooky-cocktails-and-scary-treats-with-marissa-orlowski-and-dr-cynthia-mejia/896391053762046#>
8. <http://hobnoborlando.com/hobnobbin/business/female-hospitality-execs-share-inspiring-career-stories-at-womens-leadership-forum/>
9. <http://knightnews.com/2015/11/ucfs-rosen-college-raised-over-150000-for-united-way-campaign/>

UCF Awards

1. 2017-2018: UCF Teaching Incentive Program reward for teaching productivity and excellence. Awarded \$5000 and \$5000 annual salary increase.
2. 2015: UCF Rosen College Faculty of the Year 2015. Awarded \$2500 in faculty travel funding.
3. 2013: UCF Community Partner Award. *Rosen College partnership with Sysco Central Florida.*

External Awards

1. 2016: Conference Best Paper Award, Sponsored by the Journal of Quality Assurance in Hospitality & Tourism. A place for senior living in hospitality management research. *2nd Global Tourism & Hospitality Conference/Asia Tourism Forum*, Hong Kong, 16/18 May 2016.
2. 2016: Journal of Hospitality and Tourism Cases. *Reviewer of the Year 2016.*
3. 2014: Second Place, Johnson & Wales ICHRIE Case Study Competition. *Who’s the Boss?: Millennials Managing Generations in the Hospitality Industry.* Awarded \$750 .

4. 2012: First Place, Johnson & Wales ICHRIE Case Study Competition. *Communication, Documentation & HRM: Non-Compliant Kitchen Employee*. Awarded \$1000.
5. 2011-2013. Helen DeVitt Jones Graduate Endowed Fellowship. The Graduate School, Texas Tech University. Awarded \$10,000.
6. 2011: Outstanding Graduate Student at the Doctoral Level. College of Human Sciences, Texas Tech University.
7. Fall 2011: C. J. Davidson Scholarship. College of Human Sciences, Texas Tech University. Awarded \$1000.
8. Fall 2010: Helen DeVitt Jones Graduate Scholarship. College of Human Sciences, Texas Tech University. Awarded \$5000.
9. Fall 2010: Graduate Scholarship. Department of Nutrition, Hospitality, & Retailing, Texas Tech University. Awarded \$2000.

HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY WORK EXPERIENCE

Maravilla Senior Living Community, Santa Barbara, CA. July 2004-Sept 2005
Executive Chef for this five-star retirement community owned and operated by SRG, Inc.

Rancho Temescal & The Heritage Valley Inn, Piru, CA. Jan 2003-Aug 2003
Business Development for this 6000-acre working ranch and equestrian center.

Coast Santa Cruz Hotel, Santa Cruz, CA. Jan 2001-Jan 2003
Director of Food & Beverage Operations/Executive Chef for full service 200 room unionized property.

BLU, Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore. Dec 1999-Oct 2000
Chef de Cuisine of this California-Mediterranean concept restaurant seating 70 persons.

Crescent Shores Grill, Hotel La Jolla, La Jolla, CA. April 1998-Nov 1999.
General Manager/Executive Chef for food and beverage operations of this 108-room hotel.

Sierra Mar, Post Ranch Inn, Big Sur, CA. 1995-1998.
Executive Chef of this 70-seat restaurant at Post Ranch Inn, a Mobil four-star recipient.

Sierra Mar, Post Ranch Inn, Big Sur, CA. 1995-1998.
Sous Chef, 1995-1996.

The Highlands Inn, Carmel, CA. 1994-1995.
Sauté Cook on the dinner hot line in the Pacific's Edge fine dining restaurant. Maintained high quality standards in cuisine within a high-volume production setting of up to 350 covers nightly.

Carmel Valley Ranch Resort, Carmel Valley, CA. 1993-1994.
Cook on the dinner hot line in the Oaks Restaurant. Grill, sauté, pastry, pantry and banquets.

The Greenbrier Hotel, White Sulphur Springs, WV. 1993.
Roundsperson of this Mobil five-star, five diamond hotel. Experienced on the hot line, bake shop, Garde Manger and ice carving in high volume production up to 1000 covers.

The Four Seasons Biltmore Hotel, Santa Barbara, CA. 1992.
Roundsperson in the restaurant outlets including pastry, Garde Manger and banquets.