



From the Dean's Desk

Welcome to the August 2019 communique "From the Dean's Desk". We are just a few days away from the start of the fall semester. Our faculty are ready to educate and inspire the future leaders of the hospitality, entertainment, event, food and beverage and tourism industries. We recently came together at our annual retreat and we are ready to engage with Gen-Z with our comprehensive degree programs, course offerings, internships, leadership workshops, networking and engagement events, all aimed at student success.

The current generation of students studying at Rosen College are tech savvy, having always known and used smart devices. That is why we offer options for learning both in the classroom and online, in addition to mixed-mode.

Our website lists all our degree programs <https://hospitality.ucf.edu/degree-programs/> including our recently approved Bachelor of Science degree in Senior Living Management, which will be fully available to all students in fall of 2020. This degree offers long-term job stability as the aging population increases across the United States.

With the launch of the Disney Aspire program, our Master's degree program enrollment has jumped. Aspire offers fully-paid tuition to Disney employees who seek to complete an undergrad degree or obtain a more advanced degree. In the coming years we expect more Disney team members to return to college to enhance their skills for career growth. More exciting opportunities will be available with the recent announcement of Universal Orlando's Epic Universe promising more than 14,000 new jobs for which Rosen College can play an important role. Our Ph.D. program is also growing which puts us in a position to provide more qualified educators and researchers at the university level.

Earlier, I mentioned our retreat. During our semester celebration lunch we recognized three members of the Rosen College family for their dedication to the college, its students and its programs. Sheryl Goins, coordinator for our Asian students exchange programs including the six-month UCF-Disney Cohort and the Kyung Hee University Summer Study program, was presented with the Staff Member of the Year Award. Daniel Maldonado, a facilities expert, was awarded Associate Member of the Year, and Dr. Mathilda van Niekerk received the Faculty of the Year Award. We will share more on these extraordinary Rosen College family members in a story on our website.

The air is charged with excitement. Classes begin on August 26. We are ready for the fall semester!

Charge On!

Youcheng Wang, Ph.D., Dean
UCF Rosen College of Hospitality Management

