This 35th communique From the Dean’s Desk is a special message to our graduates, our Rosen Knights.

To the future leaders of the hospitality industry, as well as the world, do not be discouraged. Coronavirus COVID-19 has upended the world as we know it and made the spring semester of your senior year, one that you will always remember for its isolation, social distancing, online courses and stay-at-home orders. Your spring break ended with the order not to return to campus or class. The global pandemic closed down the hospitality industry, an industry that is filled with fun, events, attractions, travel, food and excitement. This industry is only fun because of the people in it… YOU!

Without YOU the hospitality industry has no smiling faces to interact with guests. Without YOU there is no one to make sure a themed experience is tailored just right for the enjoyment of the consumer. Without YOU there is no one to manage the event and make sure it gets rave reviews. Without YOU current and future Rosen College students don’t have alumni who can mentor them and show them the highs and lows of managing a crisis and coming out on the other side of the new normal.

We know that this is not the world you expected upon graduation. We also know that you are resilient, solution-oriented young adults who will forge new paths in a changed industry. You are Knights and Knights keep fighting! Knights keep up the crusade; they get to the Holy Grail.

As you graduate from Rosen College, we the leadership team, the faculty and staff congratulate you on this momentous occasion. You have earned your Bachelor’s degree, Master’s degree or Ph.D. degree. We are proud of you and you should be proud of your accomplishments! So farewell for now and I look forward to engaging with you as a Knights alum in the future!

Go Knights! Charge On!

Youcheng Wang, Ph.D., Dean
UCF Rosen College of Hospitality Management
You may find previous issues of "From the Dean’s Desk" HERE!