

UCF Rosen College of Hospitality Management's rise from humble beginnings to being a top-rated higher institution of hospitality education can be traced to strong leadership, current and past. In this 48<sup>th</sup> *From the Dean's Desk*, we honor UCF Rosen College's founding dean Dr. Abraham Pizam, as he marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of achieving his Ph.D

With a lifetime of dedication to the business of hospitality, Dr. Pizam began overseeing UCF's hospitality program in 1983. He was appointed dean when the stand-alone college was built 17 years ago and stepped down in 2018 to return to a faculty position at the college. He has conducted research projects, lectured, and served as a consultant in more than 30 countries, held various academic positions in the United States, the U.K., France, Austria, Australia, New-Zealand, Singapore, Israel and Switzerland, and has authored more than 160 scientific publications and ten books. As Dr. Pizam began his ascent up the academic ladder, he first had to complete undergraduate and graduate degree programs and then the all important presentation of his dissertation, to achieve his Ph.D. The title of that dissertation presented in 1970 at Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, Graduate School of Business Administration is, "Some Socio-Psychological Correlates of Innovation within Industrial Suggestion Systems". The main postulate of this study was that industrial innovation as manifested in a suggestion system is a product of some personal characteristics that an individual possesses which are constrained by some structural characteristics of the organization.



From studying business, Dr. Pizam transitioned his education and experience into the hospitality industry. He is currently a faculty member at UCF Rosen College and the holder of the Linda Chapin Eminent Scholar Chair in Tourism Management at UCF Rosen College. He is also leading the charge on the college's new [Senior Living Management Bachelor of Science degree](#) program, the first program of its kind in the State of Florida combining hospitality and health management. To learn more about Dr. Pizam please visit his [website page](#).

To honor Dr. Pizam on the 50th anniversary of his achieving his Ph.D., the Dean's Distinguished Lecture Series will take a look at the evolution of the hospitality and tourism industry through the eyes of some of the pioneers in this field of education. Seven lectures will be presented in the Dean's Distinguished Lecture Series, beginning on October 28, 2020, presented monthly and concluding in April 2021. You may find detailed information on the lecture series on this webpage: <https://hospitality.ucf.edu/deans-distinguished-lecture-series/>.

Dr. Pizam's long and illustrious academic career is one that few achieve. I congratulate him on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of achieving his Ph.D and I am proud to follow in his footsteps and uphold the high standards he established at UCF Rosen College of Hospitality Management.

Charge On!

*Youcheng Wang*

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