



## From the Dean's Desk

What a difference a year makes. Last year at this time we were holding classes fully online, had a virtual commencement and the hospitality industry was essentially closed. In this edition of *From the Dean's Desk* we take a look at where we are today and what we can expect going into the summer and fall at UCF Rosen College of Hospitality Management, as we make plans to return to and execute a new normal education model.

Our first summer session since the pandemic, kicked off this week. More than 2,000 students are enrolled for summer classes, but the majority are taking classes online. We have 800 students taking in-person classes on campus in our classrooms and labs. It's great to have them back. In the fall, with more people getting vaccinated and mask mandates and social distance relaxed, we expect to see our campus at full capacity with more than 3,500 students face-to-face with their classmates and professors. We are extremely excited about this prospect.

With the hospitality industry coming back to life after 15 months of dormancy, our students are getting back into the workforce and into their internships.

Each year, approximately 1,000 students go through our internship programs which were revamped in the fall of 2020 to accommodate the lack of on-the-job experiences. The revamped program was influenced hugely by industry input and the many industry advisory boards at Rosen College including the [Dean's Advisory Board](#) and the [Dean's Alumni Advisory Board](#). The program includes three, 1-credit classes, namely: **Personal and Professional Development; Exploring Your Career Path; Launching Your Career**. [Internships - Rosen College of Hospitality Management \(ucf.edu\)](#). We are looking forward to hearing our student's internship stories this fall.

Travel bans to stop the spread of COVID-19 shut down all of UCF's Study Abroad programs for 2020 and 2021, but they are coming back in 2022. We will be welcoming students from our partner universities throughout the world for the fall. Our graduate students involved with the theme park and attractions management program for Qiddiya will be in class. And our students in the United States will be able to apply for programs around the globe again, which will kick off in 2022. Workshops to prepare students for the international education experience are scheduled for this summer by [UCF Abroad](#). Our short term travel programs will also resume in 2022. Instead of Study Abroad our students will be able to Study Aboard, yes they will learn the cruise industry, during a week-long journey over spring break 2022. Learn more about the program here: [Study Aboard: The Cruise Ship Industry - Rosen College of Hospitality Management \(ucf.edu\)](#).

We never could have imagined what the last year delivered, but it has better prepared us for the future of the HOSPITALITY+ comprehensive model of education that we deliver to the future leaders of the hospitality industry.

Warm regards for a great summer! Charge On!

[Youcheng Wang, Ph.D., Dean](#)

UCF Rosen College of Hospitality Management

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