



From the Dean's Desk

Congratulations to the class of 2021. This 60th communique *From the Dean's Desk* is a special message to our graduates, our UCF Rosen College Knights who managed classes in a pandemic, survived the loss of jobs and internships, dealt with lives turned upside down, but still managed to persevere and are putting on caps and gowns and graduating today.

Wow! What a year it's been. The final year of your college career was more eventful than some people's entire lives. Zoom, Canva, Webcourses and other digital platforms were constants in your lives for taking the courses you needed to fulfill the requirements for graduation. You learned more about screen sharing and video support, and using Google docs and TEAMS to complete and submit assignments. Collaborative projects with classmates may have been accomplished on Slack. Your knowledge of technology for managing your academic life will certainly be a necessary tool for managing the re-aligned worlds of hospitality and tourism.

As you prepare to leave the number one ranked college in the nation and second in the world (ShanghaiRankings), know that you have the knowledge and skills to truly be a future leader of the hospitality industry, as well as the world. Coronavirus COVID-19 has upended the world as we know it, but jobs are coming back, the economy is rebuilding and the industry you have chosen to pursue is waiting for you with a renewed commitment to succeed.

You are joining a Rosen College alumni group that is more than 12,000 members strong. Strong because they believe in the industry they work in. Strong because they believe in the power of connectivity that hospitality, tourism, travel, dining together, experiencing events and entertainment brings. Strong because of the commitment they have made to bring the industry back, better, safer, than ever. 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 go into battle well-trained and equipped with tools to conquer any obstacles.

As you graduate from UCF Rosen College, we the leadership team, the faculty and staff congratulate you on this momentous occasion. We are proud of you and you should be proud of your accomplishments!

Go Knights! Charge On!

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

UCF Rosen College of Hospitality Management

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