There are only 20 days until Thanksgiving and 50 days until Christmas. It's the season of thanks and giving and at UCF Rosen College of Hospitality Management we want to acknowledge those who have given, urge continued giving and talk about the need to sustain what has been established through giving.

Philanthropy is extremely important to the life blood of higher education. Those who choose to contribute, give of their time, their talent and their treasures. Our thanks to those who have given time to mentor our students, share their career journeys through our Leadership Workshops, P.R.E.P. Connect and guest lecturing. Thank you to those industry partners and employers who attended our first in-person career fair since the pandemic on October 27th and those who came to the virtual career fair day on October 28th. Our student job placement rate is up to 100%.

Thank you to those who have given their talents. The Darden Auditorium where we recently held the in-person State of the College Address on October 13th and the Scholarship Awards Ceremony on October 14th has been equipped with a new lighting system and podium thanks to our partners in education Entertainment Technology Partners (ETP).

Our students, faculty and staff who use the auditorium say the new lights have made a world of difference in being able to read textbooks and see guests on the stage. If you didn't get the opportunity to witness the State of the College Address you may find it on our YouTube Channel, along with the Scholarship Award Ceremony. You may also find our new college video, "We Are Rosen College". The new video presents the student's perspective on why UCF Rosen College is the perfect choice for pursuing their higher education and why the partners we have connected with to help them in their journeys mean so much to them. Careers and internships have been the result of these partnerships, putting our students on the path to success.

Thank you to those who have given of their treasures. We have very generous donors, who despite the economic challenges brought on by the pandemic, have given resources to support almost $250,000 in internal scholarships, managed by the UCF Foundation, that were awarded to students at the fall scholarship ceremony. Our college's namesake, Harris Rosen, is one of the sustaining internal scholarship donors. Our partners have also been generous to our student body with external scholarship contributions this year totaling more than $150,000. Our thanks to Central Florida Hotel and Lodging Association (CFHLA), Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association (FRLA) and the Tampa Bay Hospitality Association (TBHA) for their generous support of the future leaders of the hospitality industry. We are grateful for all the support given to our students and our college. We would like to encourage everyone during this season of thanks and giving to consider making a gift to UCF Rosen College of Hospitality Management to support our scholarships. Visit https://hospitality.ucf.edu/donate/ or https://foundation.ucf.edu/givetorosen to make a gift today. The gifts that provide scholarships are vital to our students achieving their goals of completing a college education, particularly in these challenging times.

Other opportunities for thanks and giving can be found in the Knights Helping Knights Pantry at Rosen College, also known as Pineapple Pantry. Since its ribbon cutting in the February 3, 2020, just a few weeks before the campus closed and moved to remote learning as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, the pantry has been open in the fight against food insecurity. So far this fall semester, the pantry has distributed more than 250 pounds of food, especially peanut butter, Cup o' Noodles and shelf stable canned goods. Four student volunteers, Matthew Engel, Justin Pecoriello, Lauren Velazquez and Samuel Weisgal, manage food distribution at the pantry. The pantry accepts donations of non-perishable food items that can be placed in a box located outside the pantry door when the pantry is closed. You may also call 407-903-8056 to arrange to drop off a food donation. Monetary donations are accepted through the UCF Foundation at https://foundation.ucf.edu/givetorosen . The largest financial donation for the pantry to date was $12,000 from the Langford Family Foundation. Thank you to all our generous donors. When students don't have to worry about where the next meal is coming from, they can concentrate on their studies and do better in their academic pursuits and their careers. The pantry will be relocating from its current space near the auditorium to a larger location in the campus' former fitness center. This will allow the pantry to have a refrigerator, so that students will be able to have fresh fruits and vegetable, eggs, cheese, milk and other nutritious foods that require refrigeration. The expansion will also allow for National Society of Minorities in

Hospitality (NSMH) Professional Career Closet to be housed in the pantry as well, and available year-round. The Career Closet provides professional attire for students for our bi-annual career fair, now it will be available for students in need who have interviews at any time of the year. The Career Closet accepts donations of new or used, clean, professional clothing for men and women, including jackets, ties, belt, pants, suits, work dresses, skirts and shoes. There is also a limited supply of casual clothing.

As we enter the season of Thanks and Giving, we at UCF Rosen College want to say thanks to all our stakeholders, industry partners and friends who have given us a reason to keep working diligently to remain the best college in the nation for hospitality education and research. Charge On!

Youcheng Wang

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You may find previous issues of "From the Dean's Desk" **HERE!**

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