



## *From the Dean's Desk*

Our spring semester wraps up this week with commencement. Congratulations to our newest AlumKnights and their families. The past two years have not been easy ones as we worked to get our students through the trials and tribulations of the pandemic. We worked hard, but we did not do it alone. We had help from industry partners who supported our Registered Student Organizations (RSOs) and the college. In this issue of the communicate From the Dean's Desk, I want to recognize some of those organizations who have stepped up to offer support

When students have the full campus experience, it involves engaging with the RSOs who offer social support as well as industry connections to deliver the foundation the future leaders of the hospitality industry will need to help them be successful. RSOs create intentional opportunities that help students engage in activities that encourage personal growth, connection to the campus and the community, as well as promoting civic responsibility such as diversity, equity and inclusion. There are approximately 20 RSOs at UCF Rosen College. Clubs that focus on career readiness, like the Future Theme Park Leaders Association (FTPLA - [ucf.ftpla@gmail.com](mailto:ucf.ftpla@gmail.com)), have a connection to [IAAPA](#) (International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions). IAAPA provides scholarships and job opportunities through its members and the opportunity for students to attend conferences and conventions. Another organization, the National Society of Minorities in Hospitality ([NSMH](#)) has a student chapter at UCF Rosen College, one of 50 around the country. Each year, NSMH hosts an annual conference and multiple regional conferences, plus career fairs. The organization also provides scholarships, has a career center and encourages mentoring between those established in the industry and students. NSMH was established in 1989 by four visionary leaders. Today it has more than 1,000 members.



For students in our undergrad degree program for Event Management, the Association of Bridal Consultants ([ABC Weddings](#)) is just one organization that has a student chapter on campus. ABC Weddings has professional divisions in all 50 states and in 30 countries around the globe so wherever Rosen College students go, they will have the support of an industry organization that is in their field. The National Association of Catered Events ([NACE](#)) is another professional event management organization that provides student chapter support. The organization has more than 3,500 professional members who are certified catering event planners. And let's not forget Meeting Professionals International ([MPI](#)), celebrating a half a century of planning events, educating and inspiring up and coming young professionals all over the world. Take a look [HERE](#) at all the RSOs that students can join. You may also visit the [Office of Student Involvement \(OSI\) website](#) for more information about UCF campus events and involvement opportunities.

On a local level, our students and college are supported by the Central Florida Hotel and Lodging Association ([CFHLA](#)), [Visit Orlando](#) and the [International Drive Resort Area Chamber of Commerce](#). CFHLA provides scholarships that support our students on their academic journey and connections to industry professionals who coach and mentor. Visit Orlando supports our college with numerous programs and guest speakers and the I-Drive Chamber delivers access to numerous industry partners who are within walking distance of the college campus.

We are truly grateful for the partnerships that have supported the college, its educational endeavors, and its mission, vision and goals to produce the future leaders of the hospitality industry, who embrace professionalism, leadership and service. We look forward to our continued collaboration in the years to come. Charge On!

*Youcheng Wang*

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

UCF Rosen College of Hospitality Management

You may find previous issues of "From the Dean's Desk" [HERE!](#)

SHANGHAI RANKING UCF Rosen College of Hospitality Management

**#1** Nationally for Hospitality & Tourism Management

**#2** Globally for Hospitality & Tourism Management

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