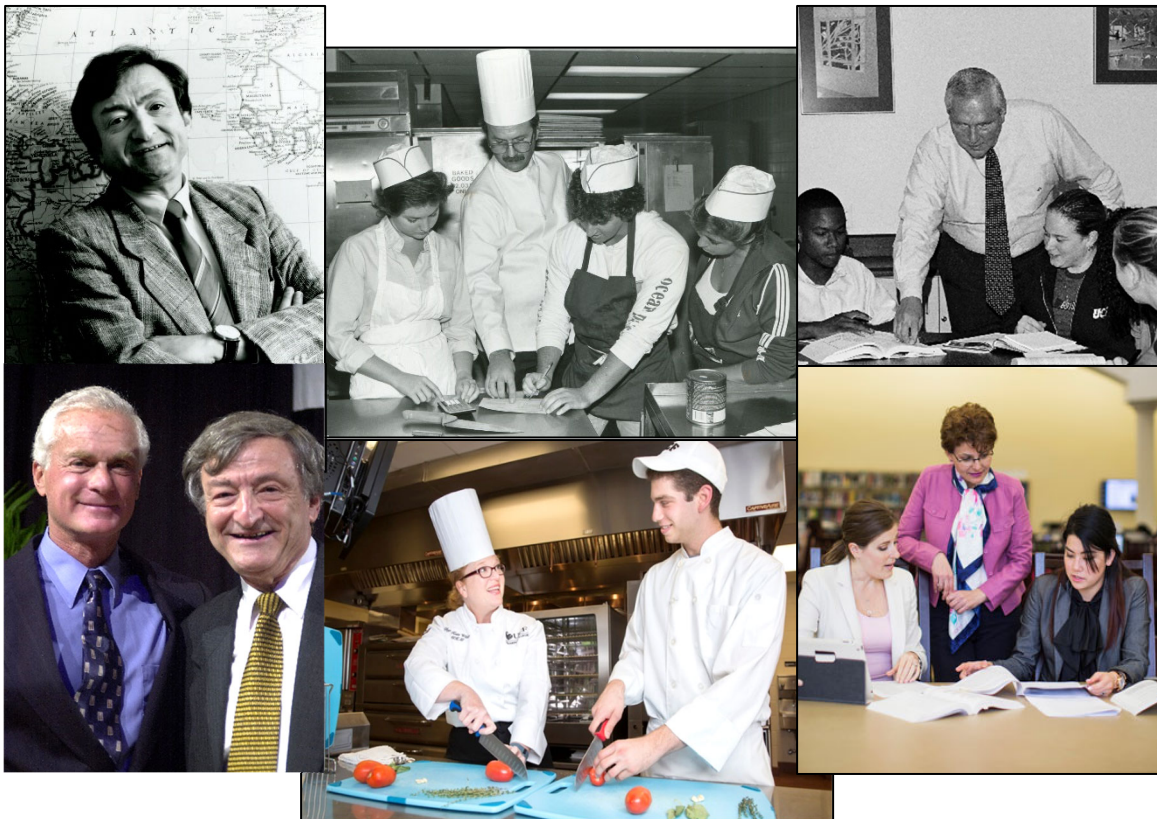


## Selected Milestones in the History of UCF's Hospitality Program

By Tim Bottorff, Head Librarian, UCF Rosen College Library



### 1979

- A \$25,000 donation leads to the establishment of UCF's Dick Pope Sr. Institute for Tourism Studies.

### 1983

- UCF's hospitality program is established within the College of Business, with Dr. Abraham Pizam leading the program.

### 1986

- The Central Florida Hotel-Motel Association pledges \$20,000 per year for five years toward a new UCF degree program in convention and meeting planning.

### 1990

- A \$600,000 donation from General Mills leads to an endowed chair in Restaurant Management at UCF.

## **1996**

- Harris Rosen donates \$1 million for UCF hospitality management scholarships.

## **2000**

- Harris Rosen donates \$18 million in money and land for a new UCF hospitality campus.
- Dr. Abraham Pizam is named Dean of UCF's hospitality school.
- The number of UCF hospitality majors tops 300.

## **2002**

- Ground is broken at the site of the UCF's new hospitality campus on Universal Boulevard.
- UCF Rosen College's Restaurant Management bachelor's degree program begins.

## **2004**

- The UCF Rosen College campus opens on Universal Boulevard.
- UCF's hospitality school is elevated to the status of a full college.
- The number of UCF hospitality majors tops 1,000.

## **2005**

- Resident apartments open at UCF Rosen College.

## **2006**

- UCF Rosen College's Event Management bachelor's degree program begins.
- UCF Rosen College's first large-scale Career Fair takes place, connecting students with hospitality-industry employers.

## **2007**

- UCF Rosen College establishes the Central Florida Hospitality Hall of Fame.

## **2008**

- The number of UCF hospitality majors tops 2,500.

## **2010**

- UCF Rosen College begins Partnerships with Walt Disney World College Program and Kyung Hee University's College of Hotel & Tourism Management.

## **2011**

- UCF Rosen College's Career Fair grows to over 850 student attendees.

## **2012**

- UCF Rosen College's standalone Ph.D. in Hospitality Management program begins.

## **2013**

- UCF Rosen College celebrates the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the UCF hospitality program.

## **2015**

- A fully online version of the Hospitality Management master's degree is first offered.

## **2016**

- The number of UCF hospitality majors tops 3,000.
- Gregory Elias donates \$5 million dollars to start the new Entertainment Management Bachelor's degree program at UCF's Rosen College.

## **2017**

- UCF Rosen College receives a \$1.5 million gift from the J. Willard and Alice S. Marriott Foundation.
- Dr. Abraham Pizam steps down as Dean of the UCF Rosen College.
- UCF Rosen College hosts three major international conferences in one week in December: the 2<sup>nd</sup> USA-China Tourism Research Summit, the 4<sup>th</sup> World Research Summit for Tourism and Hospitality, and the 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Events.

## **2018**

- Dr. Youcheng Wang is selected to be the second Dean of the UCF Rosen College.
- UCF Rosen College partners with the UCF College of Medicine to offer a Culinary Medicine Course, starting a partnership that will grow in future years.

## **2019**

- The *Rosen Research Review*, a magazine that highlights research published by Rosen faculty in an appealing format, is launched.
- UCF Rosen College hosts a workshop to end human trafficking in the hospitality & tourism industry, an initiative which will grow in future years.
- UCF Rosen College adds undergraduate certificates in Hospitality Information Technology and Professional Tennis Management. More programs will be added in future years, such that by 2022 the College offers 7 undergraduate and 5 graduate certificates.

## **2020**

- UCF Rosen College perseveres through the COVID-19 pandemic, shifting to online classes and a virtual career fair, before eventually resuming hybrid classes and activities.
- UCF Rosen College adds a Senior Living Management bachelor's degree and a Travel Technology & Analytics master's degree.

## **2021**

- UCF Rosen College increases partnership with local employers, hosting now-annual vents such as "Disney Day" and "Universal Day" to allow students to connect with recruiters and leaders from various large area employers.

## **2022**

- UCF Rosen College is ranked no. 1 in the nation (and top five in the world) for the third consecutive year, according to the ShanghaiRanking's Global Ranking of Academic Subjects.
- UCF Rosen College's Event Leadership master's degree program begins.

## 2023

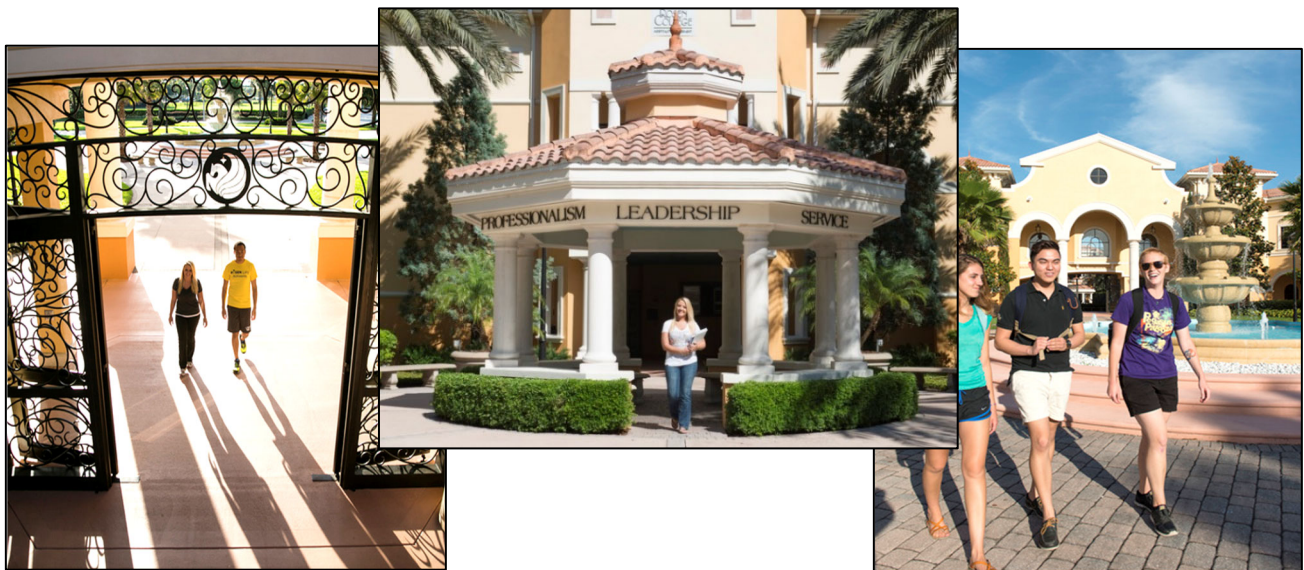
- Dr. Cynthia Mejia is appointed interim Dean of the UCF Rosen College.
- UCF Rosen College celebrates the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of UCF's hospitality program.
- UCF Rosen College's bachelor's degree in Theme Park & Attraction Management begins.
- The Senior Living Management degree is updated and renamed Lifestyle Community Management.
- UCF Rosen College hosts its largest Career Fair to date, with 1175 students and 237 employers in attendance at the fall 2023 edition of what is now a semiannual event.
- UCF Rosen College hosts the Road to F.A.M.E festival, featuring dozens of entertainment professionals from television, film, theatre, sports, music, and more.

## 2024

- UCF Rosen College celebrates the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Boulevard campus.
- The search begins for the next permanent Dean of the UCF Rosen College.

## Sources

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