

COLLINS À LA CARTE

Fall 2025

HOUSE SPECIALS

Collins Sees Growth in Career Services Engagement

JULY 14

The Collins College released its 2024-25 Career Services Report, which highlighted more than 2,300 student career touchpoints and a 24 percent rise in student attendance at the Hospitality Career Expo.



Collins Faculty Awarded Grant to Bring Generative AI Into Curriculum

JULY 30

Congratulations to **Professor Linchi Kwok, Ph.D.**, **Associate Professor Jie (Jamie) Sun, Ph.D.**, **Distinguished Professor Wan Yang, Ph.D.**, and **Professor Michelle Yoo, Ph.D.**, for winning 2025 Generative AI Course Integration Grants to pilot AI-supported learning modules in hospitality classes.

Students Visit Annual Conferences

Students had numerous opportunities last semester to learn from Collins alumni and other talented professionals in the hospitality industry:

The Society for Hospitality and Foodservice Management (SHFM) visited Indian Wells with **Michele Gendreau** as a guest speaker.

Eta Sigma Delta and the SHFM visited IMEX America.

Club Management Association of America visited the National Student Education Conference.



HOUSE SPECIALS

\$3 Million Gift Launches Shupnick Innovation Center

AUGUST 13

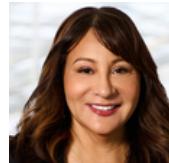
We are grateful for the generous gift from the **Larry and Jo Shupnick Family Foundation**, which will fund the new Shupnick Innovation Center, kickstarting a renovation at The Collins College that will include a state-of-the-art hub with a test kitchen, flexible collaboration zones and modern classrooms.



Eight Industry Leaders Join Dean's Advisory Board

AUGUST 18

The Collins College named eight new members to its Board of Advisors, adding executives from hotel operations, entertainment, real estate advisory and restaurant development to strengthen ties with industry, guide curriculum and support student opportunities.



Collins Students at Dodgers All-Access

AUGUST 28

A team of 20 students brought hospitality to the big leagues at the Los Angeles Dodgers' 11th annual All-Access event at Dodger Stadium, working to give attendees a seamless VIP experience.



Hotel and Event Industry Weeks Offer Students Career Connections

SEPTEMBER 22

Collins hosted two weeks of events, including coffee chats, alumni panels and recruiter sessions with Marriott, Hyatt and Hilton, giving students direct access to industry professionals and networking opportunities.

Students Explore Glamping Trends Through "Glampoly" Project

OCTOBER 8

Students from The Collins College teamed up with the College of Environmental Design on "Glampoly," a hands-on project blending hospitality design, market research and financial planning to help prepare students for the outdoor hospitality market.



HOUSE SPECIALS

ACPHA Reaccreditation Affirmed

OCTOBER 13

The Collins College was reaccredited by the Accreditation Commission for Programs in Hospitality Administration after an October 15 site visit, meeting all standards and key elements. We thank visiting reviewers **W. Jinnings Burruss**, **Horace Hutchinson** and **Ravi Pandit** for their time and insight during the review.

Entrepreneur Team Wins at SoCal Competition

OCTOBER 14

"The Mango Tree – An Indian Express" won second place at the The IndUS Entrepreneurs (TiE) SoCal and TiE University Pitch Competition. Led by **Dean Krishnamurthy** and **Varsha Soni** from the College of Business Administration and supported by master's students **Nishant Patel** and **Dhey Thakkar** from The Collins College, this team of student innovators came together to pitch ideas using AI, data and SMART technologies.



Gregg Patterson Offers Insights

OCTOBER 22

Students met with **Gregg Patterson**, former general manager of The Beach Club for 34 years and now an internationally recognized speaker, writer and educator through his company Tribal Magic. The session gave students insight into leadership, club management and the value of building strong professional communities.

Workshop Prepares Students to Network With Confidence

OCTOBER 29

Dean's Advisory Board members **Pam Jones** ('73) and **Bruce Gorelick** ('78) returned to The Collins College to lead the "How to Meet, Greet, Mingle and Be Memorable" workshop, which taught students how to make strong first impressions.

CCHM Excels at Explore CPP

NOVEMBER 1

The Collins College saw one of the highest engagement levels among the eight college academic tables at Explore CPP as prospective students and families met with faculty and staff to learn about the hospitality program.

Students Partner With Rose Float for Event Planning Experience

NOVEMBER 4

Students in Culinary Worlds Beyond the Kitchen, taught by **Sheree Mooney, Ed.D.**, partnered with Cal Poly Rose Float to plan a large-scale event: feeding more than 300 volunteers working on this year's Sweepstakes Award-winning Rose Float, "Jungle Jumpstart."



HOUSE SPECIALS

Hospitality Students Spotlighted at Island Swirl Launch

NOVEMBER 5

The Collins College students **Marco Mena** and **Steven Sun** were honored at the Island Swirl launch party for their hands-on impact as Mila's Kitchen interns.



NSMH Students Visit Luxury Hotels in Santa Monica

NOVEMBER 17

Members of The National Society of Minorities in Hospitality (NSMH) visited The Regent Santa Monica and Shore Hotel for an inside look at luxury lodging operations. Through conversations with Collins alumni and property leaders, students gained insight into fine dining, co-branding and more.



Food and Beverage Industry Week Connects Students With Employers

NOVEMBER 18

Over two high-energy, fast-paced days, students received a front-row look at where hospitality careers can lead by connecting with a rotating mix of industry professionals and learning about opportunities across the field.

Industries represented included:

- Aramark Collegiate Dining
- BJ's
- Gordon Hospitality Group
- Lazy Dog
- Market Team
- Marriott
- Mendocino Farms
- Merit Hospitality Services
- Omni La Costa Resort & Spa
- Panda
- Patina Group/DNC
- SC Wings and Graze Craze
- Stonefire Grill
- The H.wood Group

Soup Competition Highlights Student Skills

NOVEMBER 25

Students in Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism (HRT) 2810 Professional Cooking 1 showcased their culinary techniques in the semester's Soup Competition, presenting creative and flavorful entries developed through hands-on practice.



HOUSE SPECIALS

The Collins College Partners with CRF

NOVEMBER 26

Cal Poly Pomona proudly hosted the Southern California ProStart Boot Camp presented by The Almond Board of California in partnership with the California Restaurant Foundation, bringing more than 200 high school culinary students to campus in preparation for the ProStart competition.



New Electives Expand Hospitality Learning

- Insights into Club Management will be taught by **Linchi Kwok, Ph.D.**
- Hospitality and Tourism Risk Management and Assessment will be taught by **E'Lisha Fogle, Ph.D.**

Welcome Chef Vaillette

The Restaurant at Kellogg Ranch welcomed a new executive chef, **Matthew Vaillette**, to the team. A graduate of the Culinary Institute of America, he has more than 20 years of leadership experience, including his work in Michelin-level kitchens, luxury restaurants, catering, senior living and as a private chef.



Welcome Taylor Uster

The Collins College welcomed CPP alumna **Taylor Uster** as its new marketing communications specialist. She brings experience in branding, digital engagement and project coordination and is excited to help tell the stories that shape our community.



RKR Prepares for Spring Reopening

The Restaurant at Kellogg Ranch has been buzzing with business this semester and will reopen for dining service on February 9. With a new menu and a new chef, it is shaping up to be a season you won't want to miss.



The Collins College in the Media

Explore our curated roundup of fall semester media highlights showcasing the impactful work, achievements and expertise of The Collins College community.

