



*Graduating Veterans
Reception Ceremony*

Summer 2022

The University of Central Florida

UCF Global, Room 101

**Wednesday, August 3, 2022
6:30 p.m.**

**UCF Global Room 101
4356 Scorpius St.
Orlando, Florida 32816**

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

Graduation Recognition Ceremony Order of Events

Check In

Pledge of Allegiance

Ron Reese (Army Veteran) | Peer Mentor, MVSC

Welcome & Introductions

Joshua “JJ” Johnson | Assistant Director, MVSC

University Welcome

Andrea Guzmán | Vice President Diversity, Equity, and
Inclusion

Keynote Speaker

Michael Kepner (Army Veteran) | Director, MVSC

Presentation (Coins, Cords & Stoles)

Matt Winstel (Navy Veteran) | School Certifying Official, MVSC
David Spang (Air Force Veteran) | Pres., Veteran Knights at UCF

Closing Remarks

Michael Kepner (Army Veteran) | Director, MSVC

Reception to follow closing remarks

COLLEGE OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

Cynthia Aponte *Joel Gonzalez*
Ivanelys Borges-Velazquez *Grant Lee*
Myriam Cunningham *John Paez*

ROSEN COLLEGE OF HOSPITALITY MANGEMENT

Jabar Powell



Challenge Coin

Challenge coins were never officially sanctioned, so the history behind the tradition is widely debated among military historians. A common narrative purport that a wealthy American lieutenant in World War I distributed matching bronze coins to his unit members before they were deployed. When an American fighter pilot was captured by Germans and escaped to a French outpost, he was assumed to be a German spy — until he presented the challenge coin around his neck. According to the tale, the coin saved his life — and earned him a bottle of French wine as reparation. Other historians believe the tradition began in an infantry-run bar in Vietnam, where patrons were required to present enemy bullets or their challenge coin upon entrance. In keeping with either narrative, challenge coins still earn service members their share of alcohol. Military members often tap their challenge coins upon meeting in a bar — shouting, “Coin check!” — and anyone who either cannot produce one or is the last to show it buys the first round of drinks.

Excerpt taken from NYTimes by Emily Baumgaertner

SUMMER 2022 GRADUATES

COLLEGE OF ARTS & HUMANITIES

***Eric Brown-Fernandez
Baron Collier
Colin Filipkowski***

***Karen Foster
Paul Franklin
Brian Holley***

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

***Czar Alexander
Thomas Carroll
Jose Euceda
Eli Febres
Juan Garcia
Randall Jonda***

***Taylor Sanders
Alexander Scalzo
Matthew Schweitzer
Daniel Suarez
Gary Washington***

COLLEGE OF COMMUNITY INNOVATION & EDUCATION

***Kevin Burkevich
Timothy Dawson
Guilherme De Medeiros
Sean Fisher
Eric Hemm
Christopher Holland
Jeffrey Hopkins
Benjamin Horsley
Rodney Hyre***

***David Lopez
Giovanni Marra
Jermaine Morris
Donald Norsworthy
Sully Parrales
Janice Peterson
Jonathan Reichfield
Kayla Tepper
Austin Vinson***

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING & COMPUTER SCIENCES

Scott Bell
Michael Brown
Ronald Campos
JoAnna Cohen
Jose Cruz
Bradley Freed
Jerome Honeyghan
Devon Klos

Andrew Levy
Albert Lora-Monier
Tony Naylor
Ashley Pearson
Michael Pierce
David Sepulveda
Brian Wirth

COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS & SCIENCES

Andy Calixte
Aniyah Fisher
Kimberly Nassif
Tamika Green

Kelsey Kirschner
Pamela Lee
Melody Wallace

COLLEGE OF NURSING

Dennis Acosta
Jett Bryan
Jason Bhagan

Parvin Daneshvar
Leomaris Santana

COLLEGE OF SCIENCES

Matthew Cook
Angel Crozier
Daniel De Oliveira
Kristy Ip
Goya Johnson
Elias Kayat
Frank Krist

Alysia Lucas
Abigail Ritter
Phillip Rose
Marcus Seigman
Milene St. Vil
Karl Stormer
Xavier Valles

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

MICHAEL KEPNER (Army Veteran)
Director of Military & Veteran Student Success
University of Central Florida

As the Director of the Office of Military and Veteran Success at the University of Central Florida, Mike Kepner is focused on growing programs and opportunities for student veterans throughout the university and Central Florida. He has vast knowledge and insight within the veteran community and takes great pleasure in supporting military, student veterans, and family members throughout their journey at UCF.

Mike retired from the United States Army after serving 23 years to include multiple deployments around the globe for both combat and humanitarian missions. Having served at multiple levels of command and staff, Mike has spent a lifetime leading, training, and preparing service members for mission accomplishment and achieving their objectives. After retiring to Central Florida in 2016, Mike graduated from the University of Central Florida in 2019 with his Master of Arts in Educational Leadership and a Graduate Certificate in College Teaching and Leadership. Mike was also inducted into SALUTE – Veterans National Honor Society at the University of Central Florida.

Mike is passionate about community involvement, creating career pathways, and veteran advocacy. For his dedicated work in the education space for veterans in 2018 he was recognized by the Orlando Business Journal as a Veteran of Influence. Mike continues to advocate for veterans and their families at every opportunity focused on creating purposeful relationships and strengthening opportunities for our students.