

Even in the few interactions we had I could feel not only how much knowledge and wisdom he has but how willing he was to share it. A zoom call that was meant to just be a quick Q&A about research opportunities turned into discussing how the L1 trigger works and the problems he is currently solving in his own research. I didn't have the chance to take a class with him but several of my friends have said that he is the best physics teacher they've ever had!

- Alex Busto

I really was lucky to have you as a professor for modern physics. I could tell you were very passionate about particle physics and as I talked to you about it I realized just how fascinating of a field it is. It helped me go from not knowing what I wanted to do in physics to knowing exactly what I wanted to do. Thank you for showing your knowledge with me, I greatly appreciate it and I wish you the very best!

- Brian Phillips

Hey Darin. I wanted to say thanks for all you've done in helping me as an undergraduate. I always looked forward to your class and appreciated that you were willing to answer my questions. Doing research with you and the rest of the CMS group allowed me several opportunities to learn a lot and meet people I've wouldn't have otherwise. So, thank you for everything and I wish for you success at Rice University.

Best Regards,
- Jeremiah Anglin

I have been really lucky to have you as my advisor and role model. I hope to become a great scientist and professor as you are. I look forward to collaborating with you more in the field and I wish you all the happiness and success in your future life and career!

- Xunwu Zuo

Dear Dr. Acosta,
I can't thank you enough for the guidance and support you've provided me in my upperclassmen years here at UF. From inviting me into your home for dinner to providing me with a unique research opportunity right on the dawn of graduate school (even if things didn't work out quite as efficiently as we'd hoped), you've done far more than I or anyone else ever could've asked for. Rice is lucky to have you, and UF is going to worse off without you. Best of luck there and with whatever else the future may bring.

Sincerely,
- Sean Kent

Dear Darin,
Thank you so much for being such an incredible mentor throughout not only my graduate studies, but also during my undergraduate. You were my first physics connection at UF and I really appreciate our meetings and email exchanges before and during my grad application process, as well as your continued guidance and insight since I've been here. As you move onto my alma mater, I know it will be a great environment for you and you'll be able to do great things there. I look forward to continuing to work with you as well!

Best wishes,
- Nik Menendez

Thank you for everything Dr. Acosta. You have been the best professor I have had at UF, especially in the sciences. You are always open to questions and take all your students seriously. You introduced me to this group which has convinced me that I want to do particle physics or some derivation. 😊

- Amilqar Karam

You are the best Advisor one could hope for, and I really envy your enthusiasm for Experimental Particle Physics (I hope to find something for which I'll have the same spirit). I wish you weren't leaving, but I guess Texas has gotten the best slice of Florida.

- Pawan Prakash

Thank you for engaging students in HEP and may future students discover valuable lessons under your direction.

- Arun Madhu

Darin, I would like to begin by expressing my sincere gratitude for all of the guidance and support you have provided to the HEP students during your time at UF. I am both excited for you to start a new chapter in your life, especially knowing how much you like Rice University, but I am also saddened that we will lose you as a presence on our campus. I have greatly appreciated having an office around the corner from yours, by which you would stop while passing by to discuss not only how work was going, but also life in general. Your amiable personality combined with the abundance of patience you show students makes you a fantastic mentor. I have learned so much from you and I truly hope I continue to possess this opportunity. I think it is safe to say that I speak for all of the students who have had the privilege to work with you: we wish you the absolute best and we hope we continue to cross paths in the future. Thank you for believing in us and for being such a phenomenal role model.

- Suzanne Rosenzweig

Professor Acosta! You're a professor who cares about his students, is present when they seek help or advice, and cracks good jokes. That has been my experience with you over the last year. What more can I ask! Rice is lucky to have you.

- Haben Belai

Darin, you have made more of a difference in the lives and education of your students than you realize. I for one would not have lasted in high-energy particle physics if not for you. You made this field seem achievable and fun. My only regret is not being a student directly under your tutelage! Thank you for your limitless patience, pragmatism, and passion for particle physics. Thank you for the many lessons on physics and on life. Thank you for the memories of climbing Le Reculet with Suz, Jen, you, and all the rest. It's because of awesome professors like you that fortunate students like us get to experience the wonders of CERN. I look forward to the next instance during which our wave functions intersect in spacetime!

Wishing you tremendous success at Rice University.
Remember: You are the **Foundation** of the UF CMS Student Community (UFCSC)!

- Jake Rosenzweig

I would like to thank you for being so open and encouraging to me when I first reached out to you about joining the UF CMS group. You were the first person I was told to reach out to at UF about CMS, and you really made the group feel welcoming!

- Evan Koenig

I am so grateful as I got the opportunity to learn things from you. Your passion for teaching always made things interesting to learn in group meetings or in special lectures, and it encouraged me a lot. Thank you for your amazing lectures and feedbacks, and explaining things again and again when I didn't understand them. Good wishes!

- Neha Rawal

Dear Professor Acosta,
Thank you so much for your guidance and support throughout these past few years! Thank you for helping create the CMS group. It has helped me so much in my development as a high energy researcher and as student. It has been a pleasure and an honor having you as a research mentor. I heard you are going to Rice University and I wish you much success and happiness as you transfer over!

Best Wishes,
- Ari Gonzalez