



LIFetimes

Gail Agor, Editor agorgail@gmail.com
September 2019

another great year is beginning!

WELCOME

The LIFetimes is the monthly newsletter for LIFE at UCF members. All/any comments and submissions of interest to our LIFE members are welcome! If you'd like to write once, or have a burning desire for an ongoing column, please contact us! The LIFetimes can be viewed in color at life.ucf.edu.



on board

LIFE has 800 members and sometimes it's difficult to get to know everyone. It is our goal to share background on as many LIFE members as possible. This year we will add to our popular column spotLIFE, by also "getting to know" our LIFE Board Members.

Todd Bowers, President

Todd Bowers exceeds all the necessary qualifications to be our LIFE President! As an Orlando native he has seen the growth of the area as very few have. As an area leader his experience is vast and as a supporter of UCF, his passion is never ending!

Although Todd was born in a locally, in the same hospital in which his two sons and two of his three grandchildren were also delivered, it is his journey, in and after college, on which I will concentrate. Todd graduated from FTU the year before Governor Reubin Askew approved the name change to University of Central Florida. Midway to his undergraduate degree, B.S. in Business Administration, he met Kim whom he married in 1979. Together they fostered an appetite for UCF sports. Todd and Kim have been season ticket holders and boosters since UCF's first football game in 1979. Supporting the Knights through victories and defeats, they have attended all but two UCF bowl games! Football, however, isn't the only sport where the Bowers cheer UCF players; both are avid basketball fans, proud to have been in the stands when the basketball team made their first appearance in the NCAA tournament in 1994!

During college, a fraternity brother suggested that Todd apply for a part-time teller position at Sun Bank in South Orlando. This job led Todd to apply for a grant from the

Florida Bankers Association, which ultimately paid his final two years of college. 38 years later Todd retired from Sun Trust Bank after rising from part-time teller, to Chief Financial Officer and culminating as the Senior Financial Officer for SunTrust's Commercial Line of Business!

Todd sat on multiple boards at UCF, many of which found him at the helm as Director or President. His high visibility and dedication to all things UCF has earned Todd numerous awards, distinctions and honors through the years...I could fill this whole newsletter with commendations boasting Todd Bowers' name!

Todd is committed to the Central Florida community by being on the board of the Orlando Science Center and The Greater Orlando Chamber of Commerce and United Way. He is a graduate of both Leadership Orlando and Leadership Central Florida. Amazingly, for three years, he managed to fit in coaching both little league baseball and youth basketball.

Upon retirement, Todd purchased a boat on which he loves to cruise and relax on Florida's waterways. He and Kim also joined LIFE. He has served as Vice-President and now we are fortunate to have Todd assume the mantle of our LIFE President! His background comes with a plethora of Orlando and UCF knowledge; his leadership experience will only succeed in making LIFE an even more valuable and visible community resource in Central Florida!

If you'd like door to door service to the Student Union: Park in **PARKING GARAGE A**. Go to the transit station between Garages A and I. (there are seats where you can wait.)



Take the "ROUTE #1" shuttle. The shuttle runs every 15 minutes and will drop you off at the Student Union. **NOTE:** Although the first stop GOING is the Student Union, it is the last on the way back, so be prepared for a 15-minute return trip to Parking Garage A.

There's an



APP for THAT!

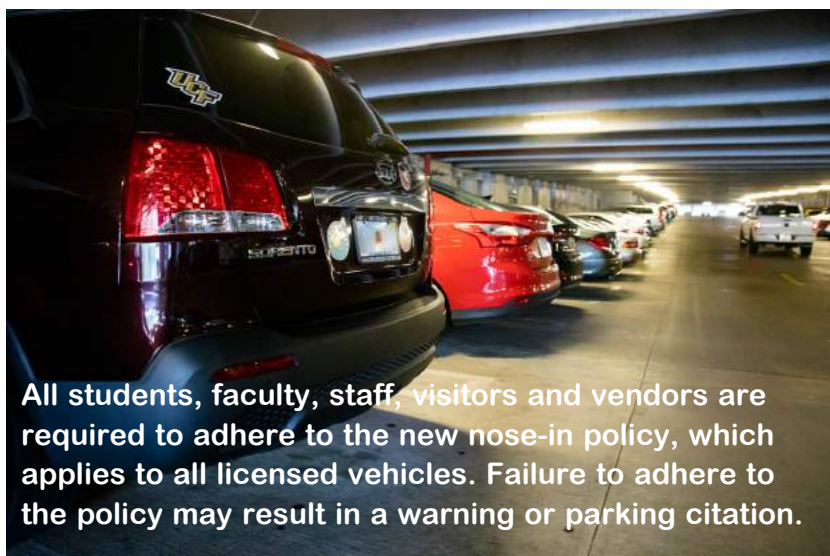
UCF students, faculty, staff, and alumni can access UCF information & services anytime, anywhere on a mobile phone or tablet. This experience includes quick access to myUCF, Knights Mail, Webcourses, Shuttles, and resources specific to Health Sciences campus students, faculty, and staff.

One especially useful icon provides information on Parking Availability. Click on it to see how full each of the UCF garages is at that moment. Monitoring that data helps users know which garages tend to be full at their arrival time(s). Scroll down the screen to see links to other parking related information. These include one to get parking availability notifications. There are also UCF campus maps showing locations of the surface and garage parking areas and where there are parking spaces for the disabled.

Search your APP STORE for UCF Mobile App



On July 1, a new policy for parking on UCF campuses went into effect to promote campus safety and parking technology. This new technology requires all vehicles to park nose-in and plate-out. No back-in or pull-through parking is permitted in any parking garages and surface lots within UCF's main, downtown, health sciences, and Rosen School of Hospitality Management campuses.



All students, faculty, staff, visitors and vendors are required to adhere to the new nose-in policy, which applies to all licensed vehicles. Failure to adhere to the policy may result in a warning or parking citation.



**LIFE experiential opportunity
PORTUGAL
May 16-25, 2019**

More details at: life.ucf.edu

For questions, call the LIFE office at 407-823-5433 or contact Marie Ruckstuhl at marie.ruckstuhl@gmail.com.



UCF students wanted to create a food pantry where fellow students would have access to free necessities if they fell on hard times. This initiative strived to ensure that UCF students would not have to choose between buying text books or buying groceries. Since its inception, the Knights Helping Knights Pantry has expanded from a closet at the Student Union to its own suite located in Ferrell Commons attached to the All Knight

Study facility. **Mission:** The Knights Helping Knights Pantry is committed to serving UCF students by providing basic needs including food, clothing, and personal hygiene items to foster continued academic success and increase retention for students in need.

Pantry Rules: Access to the Knights Pantry is reserved for UCF Students presenting a valid Student ID.. Students are limited to 5 food items per day. There is currently no limit for toiletries or clothing.

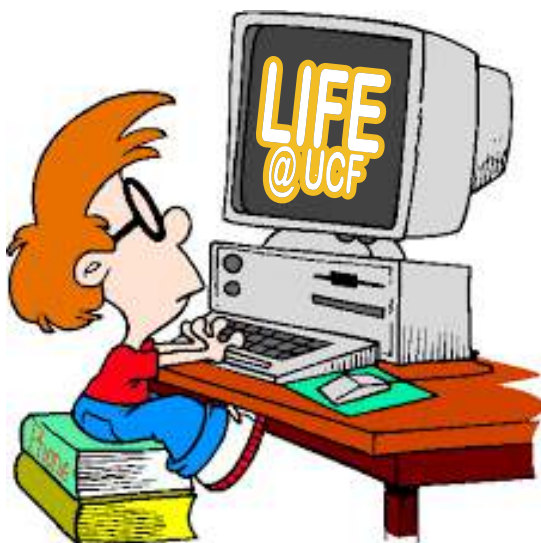
Knights Helping Knights Food Drive: October 8

Please help our fellow students by bringing in single portion food items to help stock the Knights Pantry.

Monetary donations are also welcome. Please, make checks out to "Knights Helping Knights Pantry." This allows the Pantry to supplement their inventory. You will receive a receipt.

We also accept personal care items, laundry pods, and clothing, including items that can be worn for job interviews.

PLEASE, NO EXPIRED FOOD!



A Bright New Look

During the Spring Semester the LIFE@UCF Public Relations Committee began the task of refreshing and updating our website. The goals were to make it more user-friendly, give it an updated and friendly appearance, and to add connectivity to more information.

In May, Ray Jones (LIFE Webmaster), Jim Burr (Chair) and Leslie Collin (Executive Director) chose to employ Palm Tree Tech Center in Oviedo to build our new website.

Here are some of the highlights of the new website:

- A fresh and inviting home page with 7 main tabs
- A Home Page Calendar that links date events to specific information
- Home page contains Curriculum highlights & current events blog
- A greatly enhanced FAQ section that covers both LIFE and UCF information
- Intuitive navigation

This new website is the culmination of great teamwork and dedication of all members of the PR Committee. Special acknowledgement to Judy Luckett and Linda Shaheen who spent untold hours editing. Helping put it all together, including being the point person to communicate with the developer, was our Executive Director, Leslie Collin. Her organizational skills and extra hours made this new website come alive.

Lastly, Ray Jones, the originator and webmaster of our website for many years, provided oversight and help in the technical area as we interviewed various website developers, and finally in the final installation of the website on the UCF servers. Through his expertise, experience and dedication he helped us move our website to a new level. Many thanks to all involved!

The web address of this website is life@ucf.edu . Just click and enjoy!

The weekly meetings don't "just happen." Many volunteers spend hours preparing curriculum, membership, information and activities for our LIFE members! Some of these volunteer opportunities are ongoing for the entire year, others are seasonal... all committees welcome new LIFE members who would like to assist sporadically or on an on-going basis. The names listed are the people who head up these activities...there are others who serve on committees. For more information, check out our website at:

life.ucf.edu

LIFE Members & Committees

Roster of Officers & Committee Chairs	Role(s)
Todd Bowers	President
Jack McGuire	Vice President
Ann Barretta	Treasurer
Mike Agor	Secretary
Arnold Bierman	
Jose Vazquez	Diversity Chair
Jim Burr	Public Relations Chair
Bill Myers	Finance
Judy Lockett	Curriculum/Finance
Richard Kushner	Curriculum
Marcy Kysilka	Curriculum/Policies/Diversity
Linda Shaheen	Public Relations
Jean Siegfried	Public Relations
Diane Wink	Partnership/ Public Relations
Peter Bodnarik	Curriculum
Rich Sloane	Aging Scholarship Chair/Curriculum
Wayne Bowen	UCF liaison/UCF Academic Sponsor
Dr. Dick Tucker	Board Member Emeritus
Committee/Event Volunteers	
Steve Hall	AV/Media
Debbie Barton	Knights Helping Knights Pantry Chair
Kim Bowers	Toys for Tots Chair
Gail Agor	LIFETimes newsletter editor
Lee Cross	Policies/Bylaws/Curriculum
Staff	
Leslie Collin	Executive Director
Samantha Davis	Student Assistant
Rebecca Underhill	Student Assistant
Past Presidents	
Julian Meitin	Past President
Vonnie Bradbury Jones	Past President/Public Relations
Ed Haddad	Past President
Phil Easterling	Past President
Judy Thames Lee	Past President
Ray Jones	Past President



Rich Sloane



My thrill of the chase - a passion for bird watching!

Flamingos, sparrows and vultures, oh my! Lately there has been a lot of news about birds. I'll admit it: I'm a birdwatcher, or "birder," as it's known among the crowd. Not a tree-hugger, but a birder for 45 years, advancing from newbie to full-fledged amateur. Having been in the company of true experts, I refuse to claim competency greater than that. What's the thing about birding? For one, it's the thrill of the chase. It's gratifying to add a species to your life list — a compilation of the birds you've seen over time. No guns necessary; perhaps a camera to document the Eurasian-collared Dove you spotted on that trip to Geneva — Geneva, Fla., that is.

Last year the Cornell Lab of Ornithology asked birders in certain regions of Florida and Georgia to be on the lookout for the rare Kirtland's Warbler, as it supposedly traveled through the area on migration north. The lab sent me a link to the Kirtland's Warbler's songs, a list of specific street corners in wooded areas at which to stand and play the bird calls, and directions on how to report any sightings. My wife and I traipsed to the wilds of Seminole County, three times no less, and stood for hours playing the tunes over mini-speakers. Nothing! Nada! Zilch! One lady offered to call the cops on us when we parked across the street from her home and gazed into the treetops. A brief explanation of what we were up to resulted in friendly conversation and reflection on birds.



Photo by
Margie Sloane

When we moved two years ago to a new house, we hung feeders. Nothing showed for months. Depression set in. Then the floodgates opened, and birds of every sort showed up. Lately, I've been mesmerized by the

comings and goings of a pair of hummingbirds. These jewels, a true wonder of nature, are the only species able to fly backward.

Over the years, my wife and I have made birding our avocation, traveling widely to enjoy the beauty and wonder of avian diversity. The economic impact of birding has landed squarely in Central Florida as throngs of out-of-staters come to events like the annual Space Coast Birding Festival, which recently generated nearly \$1.3 million over five days, and destinations like Mead Botanical Garden or the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive.



Photo by
Margie Sloane

Nationally, more than 45 million people watch birds around their homes and away from home, with a total annual economic impact of the U.S. birding market pegged at \$107 billion, according to a study sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Birds, like the storied canary, are monitors of the environment and, ultimately, our planet. A few species become extinct, and it's a signal that something's out of whack. Gone are the Ivory-billed woodpecker, Passenger pigeon, the Least Vermilion Flycatcher. "So what," you say. John Donne said it best: "No man is an island entire of itself."

We are inexorably tied to birds, these magnificent specimens of nature. We need to monitor their well-being.

This month's spotLIFE is an article that was sent to me, months ago, by Todd Bowers. I'd kept it on my desktop waiting for the perfect time to contact Rich for permission to publish it in the *LIFetimes*. A fortuitous meeting in Leslie's office offered me the opportunity to introduce myself to Rich and request his approval for our First of the Year, spotLIFE! The original article was published in the August 22, 2018 issue of the *Orlando Sentinel*.

Should you be interested in entertaining fellow LIFE members as a future spotLIFE, let me know. Email me at agorgail@gmail.com

UPCOMING

for more information on future events go to
life.ucf.edu

LECTURES

9/3 UCF Gallery & Exploring Microplastics found in Shellfish in the Mosquito Lagoon

9/10 If the Dinosaurs had radar: Asteroids, Arecibo, & Earth's Impact Risk & From Combat to Mass Shootings: Reinventing the Treatment of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

9/17 Avatars, Technology, & the Future, Oh My! & Female Combatants: Victim or Victimizers?

9/24 Crime Investigations & One Fish, Two Fish: Weird & Wonderful Adaptations

10/1 Jazz & the American Spirit & Harp History & Performance

10/8 Learning Sciences & Food Fights: Pleasure, Resistance & Punishment

10/15 Salem Witch Trials of 1692 & Women Authors

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

To participate in any of the trips, you must go on the website and sign up under the "Experiential Learning" tab

Friday, September 20:

OUC Gardenia & Solar Farm. COST: free.

Meeting time: 9:45am.

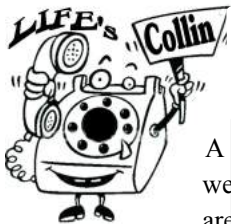
Location: 800 Gardenia Ave, Orlando

Wednesday, October 16:

Buddhist Temple COST: free, donations accepted

Meeting time: 10:45am.

Location: 6555 Hofner Ave, Orlando



A big welcome to LIFE's new members and welcome back to our returning members! We are excited to begin our FALL 2019 semester.

It will be great to see everyone and meet our new members. We have had a busy summer! By the time you read this, we will have unveiled our new website! This has taken a tremendous amount of work since early June. Thank you to our PR committee for their hard work and to Palm Tree Tech in Oviedo for providing their expertise and guidance. We are very pleased to see that our Experiential Trip committee is going abroad! What an exciting time to be a part of our organization. They are still looking for interested travelers for our May 2020 trip. Information can be found on our website.

LIFE@UCF is a dynamic and exciting organization. Our unique partnership with UCF provides our members with many opportunities for learning – not just in our “classroom”. Our members are known for their support of many of the athletic and cultural activities this university offers. Your membership comes with many benefits. Take advantage of all of them.

If you are interested in making an impact in our LIFE community, please consider volunteering on one of our committees. Whether it is working with our curriculum committee to ensure we have dynamic and interesting courses or working with membership or special events, volunteers are the backbone of our organization.

For more information on our programs and volunteer opportunities, please contact me at 407-823-5433. Go Knights!

Leslie Collin
Executive Director
LIFE at UCF



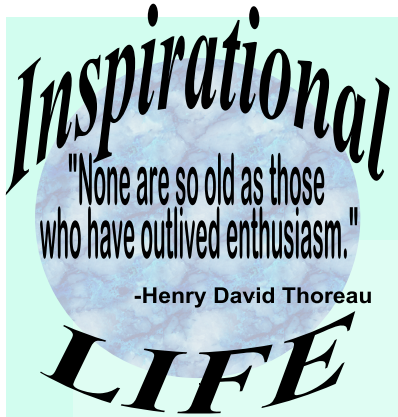


They started driving a different route to avoid us... so we started doing work on that road, too.

Yesterday I got a notice that an item I ordered at a local store was ready for pickup. So, today I went over to the shop. When I pulled out my credit card to pay, the cashier said, "Strip down, facing me." Making a mental note to complain to about excessive rules to verify holders of credit cards, I did just as she had instructed. When the hysterical shrieking and alarms finally subsided, I found out she was referring to how I should place my credit card in the card reader!

As a senior citizen, I do not get flustered often, but this time it took me a while to get my pants back on. I've been asked to shop elsewhere in the future.

They need to make their instructions to seniors a little more clear. I still don't think I looked that bad! I just need to wear underwear more often.



Mention hurricanes to anyone residing in Central Florida in 2004 and you will hear stories about Charlie, Frances and Jeanne. Charlie hit just before UCF classes started, leaving dorms

available to house emergency response staff. During Frances and Jeanne an alternative site was needed. The gym in the then College of Education building became a temporary home for essential staff and their families as they hunkered down.

During each storm, the gym floor quickly filled with families, bedding, spare clothes, toys, books and beach chairs. Exercise mats were provided to those few who did not have air mattresses. Most everyone had "hurricane comfort food" although food was provided. Around the gym's perimeter, outlets were shared for electronics from laptops and CD players to video games, TVs and VCRs. One TV was usually tuned to the "all Frances/Jeanne all the time" TV coverage. Amazingly, UCF lost power only in fraternity housing and the President's House!

The most interesting aspect of the three days we were together, was people watching. At each storm's height there were as many as 250 people in the gym. Many of the families consisted of grandparents, parents and grandchildren. There were a lot of board games. 20 tables in the lobby, made watching the wide screen TV, playing games or just sitting and talking, easy. At the end of the day, families gathered into small groups with lots of card playing and family talk time; just as they would have been doing at home.

The most amazing thing was the children who seemed to thrive, even as the adults became bored and restless. Most all displayed the ability to entertain themselves given a little bit of freedom and a safe environment. There were games and items for them to play with, but they seemed to have the most fun just being kids; running, talking loudly and fooling around. On the large gym floor kids shot baskets and made up new games played with a basketball; usually with very animated negotiations about what the rules would be, often changing as the games evolved. A group of boys scooted around the gym floor using small plastic trucks to slide. A small gaggle of girls planned and played a running and hiding game; a beautiful picture of what children can/will do if left alone. Toys are nice, card games are fun, a ball or basketball hoop are great, but there was no need for fancy toys or a ton of adult direction. (It was notable how clean the children's clothes remained, a compliment to the physical plant staff who keep this campus immaculate).

Everyone worked together to keep the gym neat and clean. The maintenance staff periodically made rounds to collect trash. The Emergency Management team kept us informed of storm progress. Meals were provided by the UCF Emergency staff.

The third morning of each storm was marked by a huge hot breakfast provided by the staff of the UCF Dining services, packing up and, for the physical plant staff, movement out to the campus for damage evaluation and repair.

Note: Charlie did cause major damage to the UCF Student Recreation Center but, except for massive tree loss, damage elsewhere was amazingly minimal. Damage from Frances and Jeanne was slight except for multiple building leaks caused by the impact of three hurricanes in rapid succession.)

-Diane Wink

LIFE



Let's Stay Safe!

What to do in case of fire, bomb threat, or other facilities emergencies

In the event of any emergency, all LIFE members must leave the building and go at least 400 feet from the building.

Elevators stop running;
lighting is deactivated;

and an alarm sounds accompanied by this verbal warning:

"An emergency has been detected, please leave the building."

Members of Police and Fire Departments are in charge of the evacuation.

Pegasus Ballroom: Everyone must evacuate through the side doors into the hallway and out the nearest exit. In the event of fire, a partition in the hallway will descend from the ceiling to prevent entering the Atrium.



Last month over 7,000 students moved into housing on the newest campus of UCF which is part of the “public-private Creative Village and will increase access for students, provide pathways into high-demand career fields, foster collaboration with our neighbors in meaningful ways and improve countless lives through the power of education.”

UCF Downtown is a 15-acre campus located in Orlando’s Creative Village. Made up of several buildings, the new shared campus will incorporate innovative technology to create a 21st-century learning environment. The campus’ proximity to Orlando’s Central Business District places students within walking distance of job and internship opportunities, and makes it easy for faculty to invite guest speakers to campus or collaborate with professionals in their field of study.

On October 24 LIFE will host a “bonus class” at the downtown location. The presentation by Dr. Judith Levin, UCF College for Community Innovations Education will be at 10:30am.

As of this printing, the sign-up for this event had not been determined, but be aware, space is limited! Keep checking our website at life.ucf.edu for more information and to sign up to secure your seat.