

LIFetimes

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PHEW! Was this a year or WHAT??? I saw Linda Shaheen the other day and she commented that I was the first LIFE member she had seen in a year who wasn't on a Zoom call. I imagine that's true of most LIFE members...we are all missing that personal contact that we like to enjoy every Tuesday morning. Hopefully, the fall will see a closer facsimile of our “normal.” However, that being said, MAJOR kudos must be sent out to Leslie, Sue Chapman, Marcia Enos, Rebecca, and more recently, Sallyrose, for the unbelievable job they have done, keeping us linked, every week, since being away from the Pegasus Ballroom. Timeless effort and challenges, unknown to LIFE members, appeared seamless to those of us viewing each presentation. Most of us don't realize the time that went into each week's presentation. Each session was tested, beforehand, with a dress rehearsal and... Oh yeah...how about our slides now accompanied by UCF music? Super stuff!!!! I would be remiss to not add Todd into the mix. Wasn't it great to see him in his UCF decorated home office? He made me smile each week!

I hope each and every one of you has been successful in getting your COVID shot(s). I look forward to, once again, seeing everyone in person, and as Linda pointed out, not on a Zoom screen! -Gail

FIRSTS

Observations from Todd Bowers

Congratulations LIFE Members! You have been a part of the most unique and unimaginable year in the 30-year history of LIFE! Last March, as we came to grips with the COVID-19 pandemic, our future was anything but clear. One Tuesday morning we were enjoying 2 great presentations in the UCF Student Union and the next, UCF was closed, and we were in our homes, concerned about our health and that of our family and friends and wondering what would happen to LIFE at UCF.

Now looking back, what started out as a journey into uncharted waters has turned into huge step in the evolution of LIFE resulting in an even stronger organization, better positioned to provide even more value to our members.

First and foremost, the most remarkable accomplishment came from our members. Despite the lack of clarity, our members voiced their confidence in LIFE and appreciation of our model for lifelong learning by sticking with us. Today, we have over 600 LIFE members and LIFE is as stable as ever. To say thank you just doesn't seem enough!

But let's take a look at some of the "LIFE Firsts" that we've experienced over the last year:

LIFE's first cancelled semester.

LIFE's first recorded Video Message delivered to members.

LIFE's first recorded lecture delivered to members.

LIFE's first virtual LIFE Board and Committee meetings.

LIFE's first live LIFE lecture streamed to members' homes.

LIFE's first virtual field trip and first virtual field trip to an out of state location.

LIFE's first live streamed LIFE presentation originating from outside UCF's campus.

LIFE's first live streamed LIFE presentation originating from outside Central Florida.

LIFE's first live streamed LIFE presentation originating from outside Florida.

LIFE's first live streamed LIFE presentation originating from outside North America.

Thank you again for sticking with us and being a part of this historic year. The lessons we've learned will enable us to be better than ever, expand our curriculum opportunities and give our members more options for enjoying LIFE's content.

Stick around.....it's going to be a great ride!

-Todd

Curriculum Committee 2020-21

-Jack McGuire

The Curriculum Committee is extremely happy and pleased that we were able to offer 54 great talks across Fall 2020 and Spring 2021, all by using an entirely new virtual zoom webinar platform and with the help of great volunteers without whose essential efforts we would not have been able to accomplish what we did. During Fall 2020, these talks ranged from one on local Orlando history such as “Jones HS and the Wider World,” to incredible research findings by UCF faculty such as “Recent archeological findings at the pre-Hellenistic site of Kerkenes in Turkey,” to local fantastic experts like Zac Zacharias who gave us a presentation on “Steam boating on the St. John’s and Ocklawaha rivers.” We also had two wonderful talks by Dr. Fine from UCF’s School of Politics, Security and International Affairs to help us get ready for the Presidential election and to help us understand some of the post-election implications. In Spring 2021 we had more great talks by UCF faculty including a talk on the “Spanish Inquisition,” by our own LIFE UCF Liaison, Dr. Wayne Bowen, and a wonderful talk by one of our eminent UCF Faculty, Dr. Graham Worthy, on “Marine Mammals of Florida: Then and Now.” During the Spring term we also had several talks by speakers coming to us from other States such as, “Rock Images of the Southwest,” and an incredible talk by Dr. Nathaniel Chin on “Building your Brain Buffer: Lifestyle changes that lower your risk of dementia.”

If that wasn’t enough, we had a talk originating from another country and continent with the presentation by Egyptian Minister Nabil Fahmi, coming to us live from Egypt.

The Curriculum Committee has been hard at work putting together the Fall 2021 schedule and here are a couple of titles to whet your appetite for what’s coming your way. We will start off the semester with a talk by a scientist from the UCF Florida Space Institute entitled, “Unveiling of the icy bodies in the solar system with the James Webb Space Telescope.” The James Webb Space Telescope is scheduled to launch from Cape Kennedy on October 31, 2021 and will, unlike the Hubble Telescope, not orbit the Earth, but rather the Sun, at a distance of 1.5 million Km from earth. This telescope will let scientists see 13 billion light years away [into the past]. We will also have a talk from one of the lead folks from UCF’s “Limitless Solutions” organization... that’s the group that makes inexpensive artificial arms and hands for children using a 3D printer! We will have some other great talks and surprises, so get your LIFE registration renewed and we will “see” you in the Fall.

"A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words"
-Diane Wink



As our Florida spring becomes that LIFE at UCF members will attending classes on campus in these pictures will give you an the Student Union. So, fill your favorite drink and sit back for a

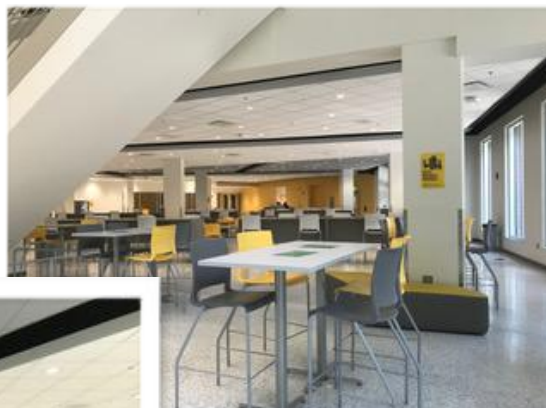


summer, we have hope again have the option of the future. Until then, update of life on around LIFE cup with your pictorial tour.

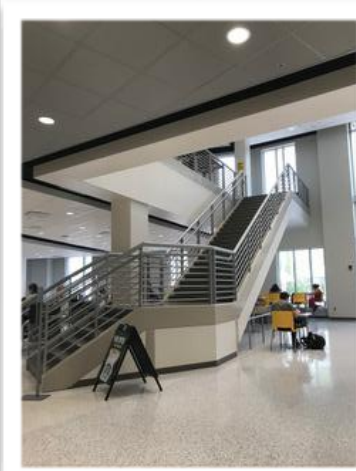
Take any of the boardwalks to get to the expanded outdoor seating in front of the Student Union expansion. Use any of the doors along the curve of the addition's facade.



The food court will be on your left and a huge amount of additional seating is to the right.



A beautiful open staircase leads to second floor seating. Sadly, gone are a few old friends including Mrs. Fields and Cafe Bustelo.



The second floor of the expansion is home of a large Starbucks and more seating.



The main feature of the expanded third floor are the new senate chambers for Student Government and the Faculty Senate. The space has an electronic voting system and state-of-the-art projection and sound systems.



The addition flows into the lobby with the university's seal on the floor. Look to the right and you will see the Pegasus Ballroom down the hall.



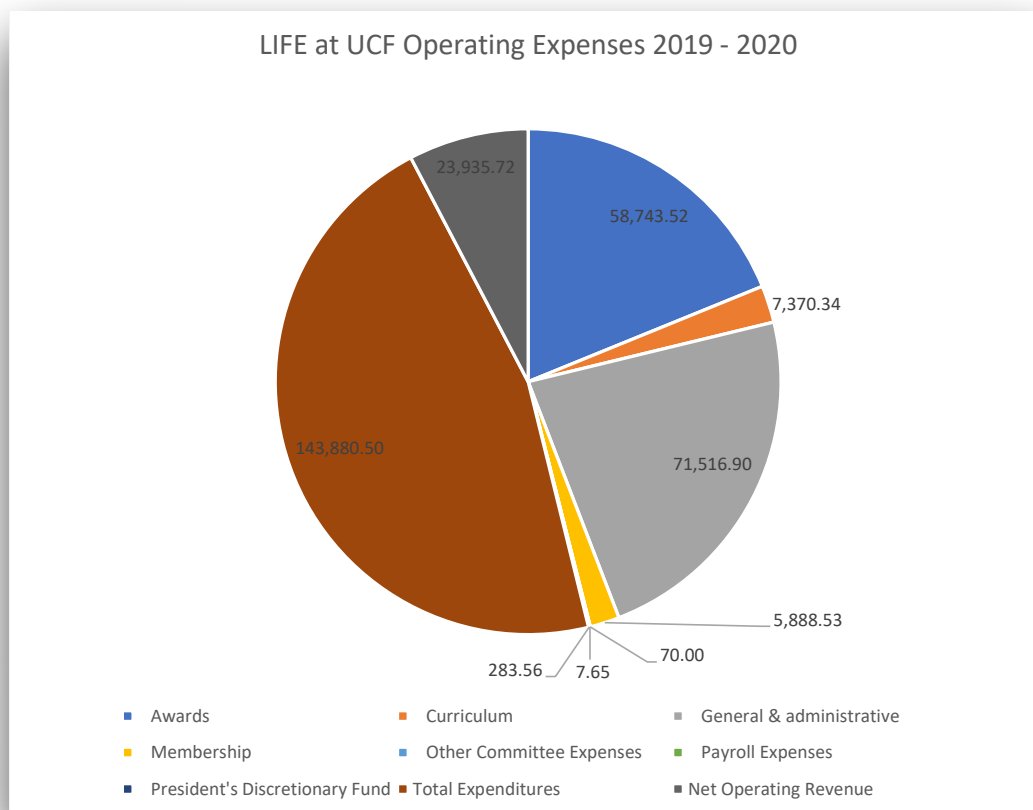
When exiting the Student Union on the far side you can enter the John C. Hitt Library expansion through its new entrance.

A three-story glass facade allows light to flood into the Library's interior. You can walk from the new, to the original, building on all floors. Additional seating fills the space with both individual and group work areas - all currently set up to promote social distancing. And, yes, while very much a 21st century library, there are still books throughout the building.

It will be very exciting to combine a return to campus with a tour of all the new additions that have opened during our absence.

Where do your LIFE dues go?

-Bill Myers, Finance Committee Chair



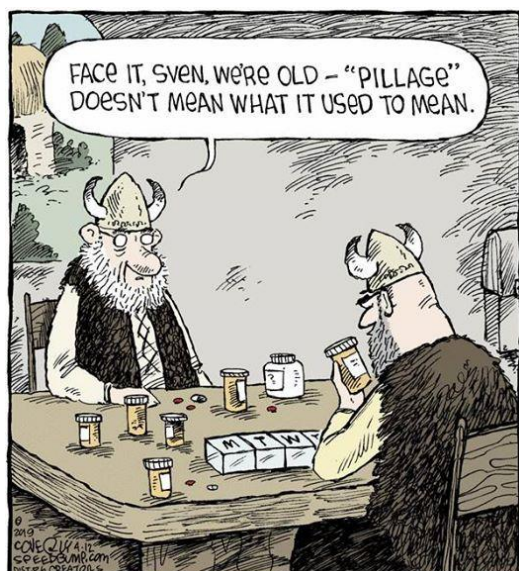
Knights Helping Knights Pantry

-Deb Barton, Committee Chair

Thank you to everyone who has given a monetary donation to the Pantry this year or dropped off food or supplies. The Pantry and the students are very appreciative. The need continues.

Checks are written to Knights Helping Knights Pantry and mailed to:

**Knights Pantry
c/o UCF Foundation Office
12424 Research Parkway
Suite 250
Orlando, FL 32826**



I finally did it!

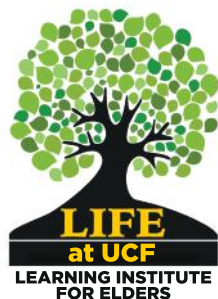
Bought a new pair of shoes with memory foam insoles.

No more forgetting why I walked into the kitchen.



You never appreciate what you have till it's gone.

Toilet paper is a good example.



This summer we have wonderful opportunities for our members. The classes, with dates and times, are listed below.

Please note: one series will take place on Zoom, and the other will be in person at the UCF College of Nursing.

This information was current as of publication time of LIFEtimes. Keep checking our LIFE emails for upcoming information and additional dates!

LIFE Summer Speaker Series with the College of Medicine (via Zoom)

**Dr. Deborah German, Dean UCF College of Medicine
May 13th, 9:00-10:00am**

**Wendy H. Brandon, Chief Executive Office of UCF
Lake Nona Medical Center
June 16th, 11:00am-12:00pm**



More Dates and Information will be coming in your LIFE email. Mark your calendars!

FINALLY something we can enjoy IN PERSON!

**LIFE Summer Series; “Let’s Talk...” a series with the College of Nursing
Each session will focus on a topic, with plenty of hands-on activities!**

Dates:

May 28, June 11, June 23 and July 11

At the UCF College of Nursing (dates & room TBD)

Check your LIFE emails for upcoming information





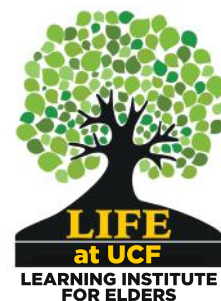
Membership Renewal For 2021-2022

**Membership Renewal Period
14 April 2021 – 16 May 2021**

- **Invitation to Renew Email Will be Sent to Each Current Member**
 - Link and Password Will be Provided
- **Renew and Pay On-Line via LIFE Website**
- **Renewal Fee - \$200**

For even MORE information and articles, go to
Learning Institute for Elders on Facebook.

Click on the link, below, and "like!"
<https://www.facebook.com/LIFEatUCF>



VOLUNTEERISM

LIFE membership offers up many benefits. Many of us find the class offerings enough, but we have a large, and active group, of volunteers from all over Central Florida. Committees always welcome new people who obviously bring varied ideas! Most committees don't consume a lot of time but are a great way to meet more people and to share viewpoints and concepts. If you would like to dip your toes into the volunteerism barrel, here are a few who could use your help.

If you are currently a member of LIFE at UCF and would like to volunteer, have an idea you want to share or have any questions, contact Leslie.Collin@ucf.edu or call 407-823-5433.

- Public Relations and newly formed Hospitality Committees are looking for help!
- Membership Committee
- Curriculum Committee: schedule speakers for our weekly classes
- LIFetimes we would welcome anyone who would like to write and share a monthly column! Contact Gail at: agorgail@gmail.com .
- Experiential Trips Committee: help coordinate field trips. We would like to schedule a fun trip each month for members! Trips can have anywhere from 10-50 LIFE members in attendance; it just depends on the venue. Right now, I'm a committee of one and would love some company! Contact Gail at: agorgail@gmail.com.

