



LIFetimes

Gail Agor, Editor

agorgail@gmail.com

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LIFE is back in the Pegasus! If COVID has done anything for us, it is the arrival of technology on the LIFE stage! Members who cannot come, in person, to classes, may access them live and/or via a link sent each Tuesday afternoon after our live session. WOW! Each of us needs to thank Leslie and her crew of Sue, Marsha, Sallyrose and Abby, as well as the technology students who are making each meeting accessible to everyone! Make sure you have added the phone number, to your contacts, so you can ask questions to the presenters each week. If you need help, setting up this easy format, there are directions each week on the screens of rotating slides at the front of the Pegasus Ballroom.

This month the *LIFetimes* provides a substantial history of UCF. Dick Tucker continues his "Origins of LIFE" series, something I am finding fascinating. Diane Wink has received special permission to reprint articles about former UCF Presidents, the first, of course, John Millican. Additionally, Diane has included an article about United States Presidents who have visited the University.

Although there are no upcoming LIFE Trippin' opportunities listed in this newsletter, the committee is working on more fun trips! Watch the slides each Tuesday to see if other Trippin's have been added. These trips are always popular and fill rapidly, so make sure you watch for announcements! We try to include as many members, as possible, who have signed up on the wait list.

As always, you can access our Fall schedule of classes at life.ucf.edu go under the "curriculum" tab. Additionally, remember we are on Facebook at [Learning Institute for Elders at University of Central Florida](https://www.facebook.com/LearningInstituteforEldersatUniversityofCentralFlorida), head on over and "like" us!

If you are interested in writing an article, once or monthly, contact me! Members would love to hear what you have to say!

Continue to stay safe and enjoy our weekly meetings, in whatever format you prefer. -Gail



Hello LIFE members. It's been a great start to Fall 2021! We are back live at UCF Pegasus AND we are live virtual streaming and recorded for all LIFE members to be able to participate. This has been a dream and hope of your LIFE leadership for many years and now it is a reality. Many thanks to our Curriculum Committee and administrative team including Leslie, Sue and Marcia and our student assistants Abby and Sallyrose for all they are doing to bring great speakers to LIFE and to manage our sessions, including a whole new approach to enable members, both in person and virtual, to ask questions to our speakers. We are also very thankful and grateful to the UCF Student Union technical team who have been making our live stream and session recordings possible. We have learned a great deal about this rather complicated process and each week has produced improvements in what we are able to do. I know you have enjoyed our first 10 presenters and thanks, especially to all of you, who have been submitting speaker evaluations after each session. The total enjoyment average for the first 8 presenters was over 80% with three of them rated over 95%. Keep completing those evaluations, they are very important in helping us shape future speaker schedules. We have some great speakers coming up including some from UCF's distinguished faculty [e.g., Forensic Science and Fire Debris from Dr. Michael Sigman, Professor of Chemistry and Director of the UCF National Center for Forensic Science], as well as some interesting topics from our community [e.g., Addressing Health Equity Through Collective Impact in Central Florida Communities during Covid-19, by Donna Walsh, MPA, BSN]. Looking forward to seeing you at our next LIFE session.

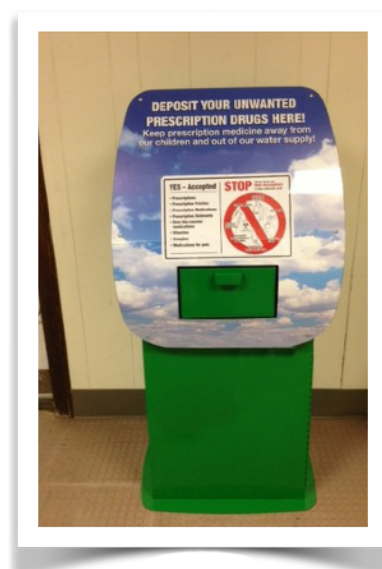
Disposing of unneeded drugs

Whether young or old, healthy or not so healthy, everyone is likely to have prescribed or over the counter drugs which are expired or no longer needed. But, there are dangers when unused drugs of any kind are simply left in the medicine cabinet, thrown in the trash, or, as we heard at our LIFE presentation on the water supply, flushed down the toilet. A more recent alarm is that having leftover opioids in a medicine cabinet can pose an additional risk since those seeking drugs know to look for them there.

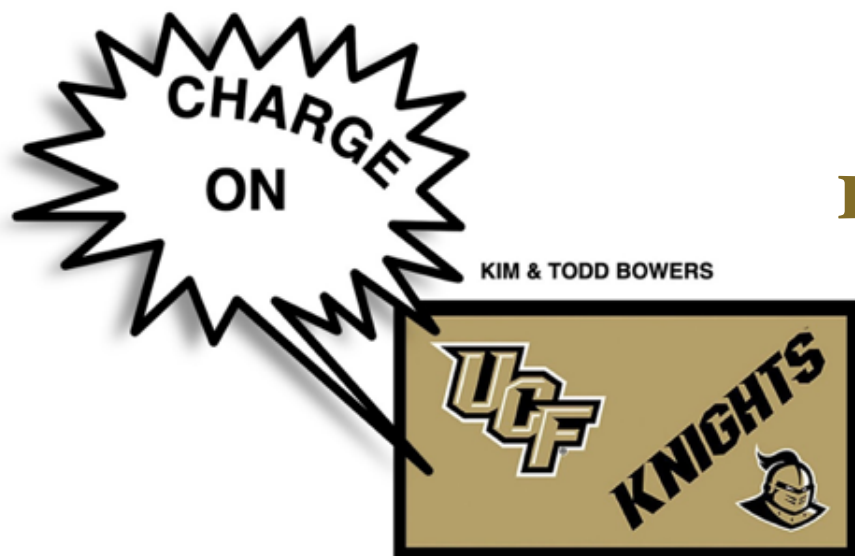
So, what can we do?

On their web page, *Disposal of Unused Medicines: What You Should Know*, the FDA recommends multiple ways to dispose of unneeded drugs. (<https://www.fda.gov/drugs/safe-disposal-medicines/disposal-unused-medicines-what-you-should-know>)

Their #1 recommendation is to drop off the medicine at a drug take back site, location or program.



As a member of LIFE at UCF this is easy to do - a secure drug take back container is located in the long hallway which leads to the Knightstop convenience store in the Student Union. Prescription medications, patches, and ointments are accepted as well as over-the-counter medications, vitamins, samples and pet medications. Not accepted are inhalers, aerosol cans, other ointments or liquids, hydrogen peroxide, needles or other sharps and thermometers. Most major pharmacy chains (Walgreens, CVS, Rite Aid, Publix, others) also accept unused drugs.



EXCITING TIMES FOR UCF SPORTS!!!

Fall Sports continue at UCF highlighted by Football and Volleyball. Football is now into conference play with the Home Conference schedule starting this week. Volleyball is on a winning streak and has found its way into the top 25 as of the latest ranking.

Who's playing this Fall?

Football – Playing without several starters on offense and defense, UCF dropped its last two football games on the road; a heartbreaking, last-play 45-32 loss at ACC powerhouse Louisville and a tough 34-30 loss at Navy with UCF playing without starting quarterback Dillon Gabriel. Through 4 games, UCF's record is 2-2. UCF continues AAC conference play with a home game against East Carolina on October 9.

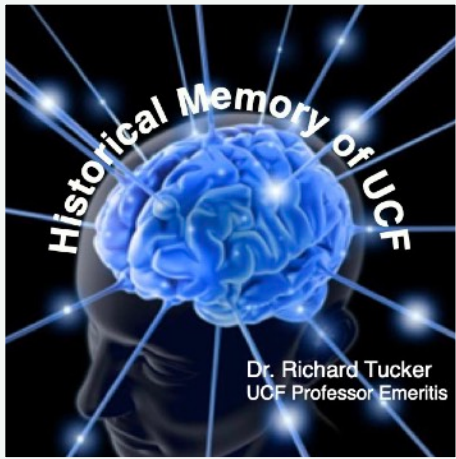
Volleyball – UCF's Volleyball is enjoying an 8 match winning streak and currently sits at 11-5, 4-0 and 1st place in the American Conference with wins over ECU, Cincinnati, Wichita State and Tulsa. Notably, UCF is also 5-0 against in-state competition with 2 wins over FGCU and 1 each over FAU, FSU and Miami. As of this writing, UCF is ranked #17 nationally with matches against Houston, Tulane and USF coming up.

Men's Soccer – After 9 games, UCF Men's Soccer sits at 5-4, but 3-1 in the AAC. Currently tied for 2nd in the conference, UCF has upcoming road games against SMU and Temple and home games against Tulsa and rival USF.

Women's Soccer – Women's Soccer finds itself unusually struggling at 5-5-1 overall and 0-3-1 in conference play. With 4 games remaining in the regular season, the Knights are hoping to finish strong and positioned for post-season play.

Women's Cross Country – UCF's Cross Country team captured first place in the UCF XC Invitational over Florida, Jacksonville and FAU.

Finally – Did you know that you can attend UCF home games (excluding football) with your LIFE at UCF Student ID? Be sure and check out some great college sports right on our UCF campus!



In this issue, we have Dr. Richard Tucker's second installment of the origins of LIFE!

ENJOY!

Part I of "The Birth of LIFE at UCF" appeared in the September issue of LIFETimes newsletter. If you have not had a chance to read that yet, go to <http://life.ucf.edu/september-newsletter.com>. This is a continuation of the various issues that the original Planning Committee considered in 1990 as they developed the foundation for the Learning Institute for Elders (LIFE) at UCF.

While Part I was presented in a purely narrative fashion, Part II will highlight specific practical issues.

1. What type of classes would be offered and how often?

The formula in lifelong learning programs vary widely. Some offer mini-courses over multiple weeks. Others provide single presentations on a topic. To begin with, it was decided to offer classes twice a week, on Tuesday and Thursday. Each day would offer two classes, some being a single presentation, others being part of a series. We did start with some "series" over either a two-week or four-week period. It was difficult to get faculty to offer more than a single presentation and gradually fewer and fewer "series" were offered. Now the only "series" presented are from the Performing Arts (Music and Theater) and Global Perspectives. The twice a week classes were offered for the first 6 years, but there was not a large increase in membership. When surveyed, the majority of members indicated that they enjoyed the classes, but they were very involved in other activities in the community, thus making it more difficult to attend two days a week.

At that time, the Board of Directors agreed to reduce classes to once a week, at the same times they were currently offered.

2. Who should offer the classes?

It was the unanimous agreement that the majority (at least 50%) of classes should be offered by the UCF faculty drawn from every department at UCF. This would be coupled with presentations by professionals in the Central Florida area. That distribution has been part of the mission of the Curriculum Committee since the beginning. Throughout our 30+ years, we have been able to get faculty from every college at UCF, most coming from the College of Arts and Humanities and the College of Sciences, which is the largest college at UCF. The two colleges were formed when the College of Arts and Sciences was reorganized in 2005. When the College of Medicine opened in 2009, the LIFE curriculum was further enriched. Classes have always ended at 11:30 a.m. to get a head start on lunch before the UCF students.

3. What kind of administrative support would be needed or could the program be run entirely by the members on a volunteer basis?

Four years ago, LIFE hired what most members thought was our first paid administrator. Leslie Collin, who now holds the title of Executive Director, has really made a difference with her administrative and leadership skills. However, when LIFE started we had a part time "administrative assistant", Joan Nelson, who had served as one of the original members of the Planning Committee. Joan, who already had a B.A. and an MBA, wanted to return to UCF to get her M.S.W. We jokingly referred to Joan as our "graduate assistant". She provided critical administrative support and leadership during our beginning years, but could not continue due to internship responsibilities. Incidentally, after Joan completed her MSW, she went to work for the

Heart of Florida United Way, and rose to the position of Sr. Vice-President of Community Impact. It was at that time that the LIFE Board of Directors, under President Al Dallago, made the decision for LIFE to operate as a totally volunteer organization, with the exception of undergraduate student assistants. We were fortunate to have retired CPA's who agreed to serve on the Board as Treasurer, or to Chair the annual Audit Committee. Board Secretaries agreed to help with the correspondence and the Board minutes. Of course, all committees were run by the members, as we have now done for over 30+ years.

4. Should we have certain membership requirements such as age or level of education?

Given our relationship with Elderhostel (now Road Scholar), we felt that age 50 and older would be listed as our "age" requirement. For members who were a couple, only one would need to be at least age 50. Ironically, on the original application form, and continuing for many years, we did NOT actually have "date of birth" on the form. When UCF required PID numbers for all of our members over 10 years ago, date of birth became a formal part of our application.

Some lifelong learning programs, such as the Academy for Senior Professionals at Eckerd College did require their members to be college graduates. We unanimously agreed that level of education would not be a membership requirement. The main rationale was the reality, especially when the program began over 30 years ago, that some spouses had forgone getting a college degree to raise a family. That issue has never been raised again.

5. Where could we meet on the UCF campus?

In 1990, with increased enrollment, classroom space was becoming less available. Thus, when the program started we did not meet in a classroom, but rather in other space that could accommodate almost 100 people. Given our close relationship with the Office of the President, we knew that there was a large President's Board Room on the third floor of the Administration Building (later to become Millican

Hall), and it typically was not used in the morning. Our first classes throughout Spring semester of 1991 were able to utilize that very special space. We also realized that we needed to find alternative space. For the next few years, we met in several different locations including the original UCF Arena (now the building behind the Addition Financial Arena). The arena was used for Commencement, and the faculty gathered beforehand in a large room away from the basketball court. It could hold 100 and also had the advantage of having a parking lot just outside the arena that was always available in the morning. Eventually, we had space in a seven-theater cinema in a strip mall across from UCF (no longer there). That closed in 2000, and fortunately, that is when we were able to move to the Pegasus Ballroom which had just been completed in the Student Union. The theater location and the ability to make that move back to UCF will be explained in a future article.

6. How much "start-up" money would be needed and what would be the source?

The Planning Committee did not have any funding when we started, but we knew that there would be expenses for printing, postage, advertising and other expenses before we could count on any income from membership. One of those expenses was buying a mailing list from Elderhostel of all those who had applied to Elderhostel over the past five years who lived in a Central Florida zip code. That list was inexpensive but proved to be very targeted advertising for the planned LIFE at UCF. The Provost, Rich Astro, provided a budget of \$2,500 as a "loan" that we would pay off when we were able. In March, 1991, that loan was proudly paid off with, yet again, much appreciation for this important support of UCF.

7. How was the program advertised?

Given UCF's "public information" office, we had convenient access to the media. That resulted in several articles about the proposed program. It was also mentioned/advertised on WUCF, UCF's

Jazz radio station. We also planned on a “opening reception” from 9-11 a.m. at UCF in January, 1991, that would provide more information about the program, including several months of proposed curriculum. Obviously, the Elderhostel mailing list was fully used. That reception was held in what was then called the President’s Dining Room, a room that could hold up to 90 people. The President’s Dining Room was in the same building as a Faculty/Staff Dining Room which opened at 11 a.m. We had no idea how many people would show up for the reception. When I arrived at 8:30 a.m., the President’s Dining Room was almost full and people were still arriving. Fortunately, we had notified Food Services about our reception and asked if we could now move the meeting to the much larger Faculty/Staff Dining Room, with the understanding that we would be finished no later than 11 a.m. Since President Altman was on the program with welcoming remarks, and Judy Altman was also there, UCF once again readily extended their welcome. It turned out that over 150 people were in attendance and 125 of them wrote a check for \$75, the cost for the Spring semester. When classes started in February, we had 150 members.

8. What benefits would be offered for members and how would we involve UCF?

A) A UCF ID Card - We wanted LIFE members to be fully involved with UCF in the same manner as our regular students. When we inquired about the possibility of a UCF ID card that would give our members access to cultural and athletic events, it was quickly approved. Arrangements were made with Student Card Services to make them available once the program began in February, 1991. It was agreed that the cost of the ID card would be paid from the membership fee.

B) Athletic events - LIFE members were granted admission to all UCF athletic events, including football, by UCF’s Director of Athletics. When we started, football was played in the Citrus Bowl, and there were always available seats. Women’s athletics did not have a large audience, so they were very pleased to have LIFE members attend. It should be noted that while UCF students had free access to all athletic events, they did pay an “athletic fee” which was assessed for every credit hour.

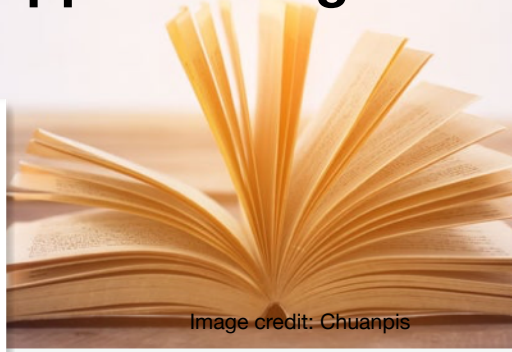
Since LIFE started, we have always made an “appreciation gift” to UCF Athletics.

C) Cultural Events - The Music Department always had recitals and students were admitted free. Non-students paid a small fee. They agreed to accept our UCF ID card for admission. Theater was the only cultural event that did not provide free admission for students, but they received a special student fee. That special fee is still extended to LIFE members. In the same way as an “athletics fee” is assessed on UCF students, they also pay a “student activities” fee. We do recognize the College of Arts and Humanities with an “appreciation” award.

D) Discounts at area stores/restaurants offering such to UCF students – I hope LIFE members are asking about a UCF student discount at area stores and restaurants. While this has always been a benefit of having an ID card, the number of stores and restaurants in the UCF area has greatly increased over the past 30+ years! A personal note: When we were visiting museums in Europe, we always asked about the “student discount”. Of course, there was always a “senior discount”, but occasionally the student discount was more. It did lead to interesting discussions with the museums, but they always honored it!

E) Parking Permit for “student parking” – It would be important for LIFE members to have a UCF parking permit. In 1990, Parking Services was under the Police Department, so we approached them about getting the equivalent of a student parking permit for all LIFE members. At that time, full year parking permits for students were \$36/yr. However, given that we would be on campus only two days a week at that time, they agreed to just accept having a postcard with the member’s name and the LIFE logo (which has always been the tree) to put next to the front window and the Police Department was so notified. Incidentally, Ina Carpenter, the Administrative Coordinator for Parking Services, has been the main person we’ve dealt with since the beginning of LIFE, and in February, 2022, she will be celebrating her 49th year with UCF, the longest tenure of any professional staff member. Her service to LIFE has been so helpful throughout our history.

LIFE Trippin' through the Library



Thirty-eight LIFE members were treated to a fascinating tour of the new John C. Hitt Library on September 22nd and 23rd. The facility is not only beautiful, it abounds with 21st Century technology accessible by all UCF students, including all LIFE members. Katy Miller, Department Head of Student Learning and Engagement, took both groups from a basement classroom, loaded with student friendly technology up to the 5th floor where Special Collections and University Archives are housed, next to a whimsical reading room! We also were able to peer at ARC (Automated Retrieval Center) through a window. This amazing addition to the UCF Library is only one of a few in the country and can hold up to 1.25 million volumes that are/will be readily accessible to students.

Through December the special collection Beyond the Barrier; the X-1 Project, is being highlighted.



ARC
at John C. Hitt Library,
UCF



Special Collections and University Archives is available Monday through Friday from 9am to 4pm. You don't need an appointment although individuals are strongly encouraged to make an appointment, 407-823-2576 or via email at speccoll@ucf.edu. Check out this website for incredible insight to Central Florida history; <https://library.ucf.edu/about/departments/special-collections-university-archives/>.



Diane Wink

Since *LIFetimes* begins a four-part series about Presidents of FTU/UCF this month, the focus of this paper is on US Presidents who have been to FTU/UCF.

A while back, James Clark, a UCF faculty member and author, told LIFE at UCF members stories set in Florida from the lives of American Presidents. Not highlighted were stories of how five US presidents made their way to FTU or UCF before, during or after their presidency.

President Richard Nixon was the first to visit the campus when he was the speaker at FTU's June 1973 graduation ceremony. Student and guest seating were in and around the reflecting pond (yes, it was drained) between the administration building (now Millican Hall) and the Library (now the John C. Hitt Library). According to the student newspaper, *Central Florida Future*, the 795 graduates, heard Nixon stress "what was right with America". Occurring in the time of the Watergate investigation, local and national media coverage was extensive and put FTU on the national stage.



Five years later *Joseph Biden*, then a newly elected US Senator from Delaware, was speaker at the June 1978 FTU graduation. That ceremony was also held in and around the reflection pond. Biden spoke to 983 graduates who were the last to receive a diploma from FTU since it became UCF several months later.

Presidential campaigns also brought US presidents to UCF some before, and others after, they were elected. In March 2016, during his first presidential campaign, *Donald Trump* held a large rally at the UCF arena. In October of that year, President *Barack Obama* also spoke at the UCF arena as part of a campaign rally for nominee Hillary Clinton.

The fifth president to come to UCF, *Bill (William) Clinton*, visited UCF multiple times. Three of those were to campaign - in October 2008 and October 2012 to support Barack Obama and in October 2016 to support Hillary Clinton. He also visited twice for non-political reasons. The first time was to speak to the Lawton Chiles Leadership Corps in May 2009. The second was to speak at one of five May, 2013 graduation ceremonies during which he received an honorary degree from UCF making him the only US president to have a degree from UCF.

Clinton's commencement speech occurred in a setting very different from those of Nixon or Biden. Because the university had grown immensely, Clinton spoke at only one of five ceremonies held over three days. Thus, only 1,600 of the 7,800 graduates, all of whom came from either the *College of Health and Public Affairs* and the *College of Medicine's Burnett School of Biomedical Sciences*, and their families, got to hear his speech. The setting was different, too - what is now the Additions Financial Arena; NOT the reflecting pond. During the ceremony, Clinton received an honorary degree from the university to recognize his service as president and his role as a humanitarian and international ambassador.



THE UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

has always been fortunate to have had the right leadership at the right moment. Each of its first four presidents — Charles N. Millican, H. Trevor Colbourn, Steven Altman and John C. Hitt — brought a different perspective to UCF that has allowed it to develop into the complex, internationally known research university that it is today. Through their leadership, UCF has grown, in 50 years, from fewer than 2,000 students to almost 60,000 students, the largest university in the nation.



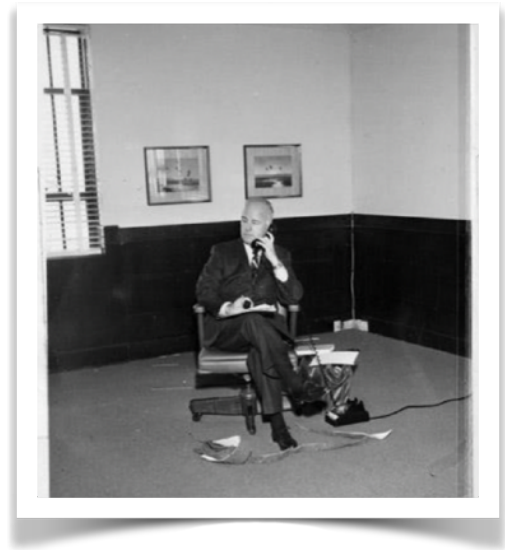
Charles Millican gave UCF its start as Florida Technological University, along with its motto, its campus plan, and even its black and gold colors. Trevor Colbourn brought to it an academic emphasis — and a football team. Steve Altman forged relationships for UCF among Orlando's business community. And John Hitt brought a stunning vision and focus, resulting in UCF's continued greatness.

As part of UCF's celebration of the 50th year since UCF was founded, Pegasus Magazine published profiles of its four presidents written by LIFE at UCF member Dr. Beth Barnes. With their permission we will be republishing these profiles over the next four months.

Charles N. Millican by Dr. Beth Barnes

Creating something from nothing, our founding president opened the university.

In 1963, the Florida Legislature approved the establishment of a state university for east central Florida's nine counties and, in 1965, Gov. Farris Bryant asked Charles Millican, a Southern Baptist minister and founding dean of the College of Business Administration at the University of South Florida, to accept the position of president of the new university. When reflecting on the offer, he wrote in his memoir, "Thinking of the complexity and magnitude of the task ahead, I shook to my toes. Then I thought, 'Just remember to take it day by day, step by step, and it will be done.'"



Dr. Millican often laughed when he told the story about trying to find a site for his new university the first time he drove to east Orlando. But when he finally found the undeveloped land — full of scrub oaks, palmettos, sand and rattlesnakes — he had big plans.

In his 1968 inaugural address, he said, “This university is at a unique place, at a unique time ... We have a rendezvous with space and the stars.”

But in 1965, the university had no name or master plan, no buildings, no faculty or staff, no students and precious little budget. It was up to President Millican to shape the destiny of the university. He and his beloved wife, Frances, moved from Tampa, and he got busy.

Working from an office above a drugstore in downtown Orlando, he chose the name Florida Technological University because of its proximity to Cape Kennedy and the technological emphasis the school would have. The university’s motto, “Reach for the Stars,” came to him on an airplane as he gazed at the sky. He had used the phrase as the starting point for a speech and had long been affected by it. He established the university’s tenets — “Accent on Excellence” and “Accent on the Individual” — based on the values he wanted the institution to uphold, and he co- designed the winged Pegasus as the official seal of the university.

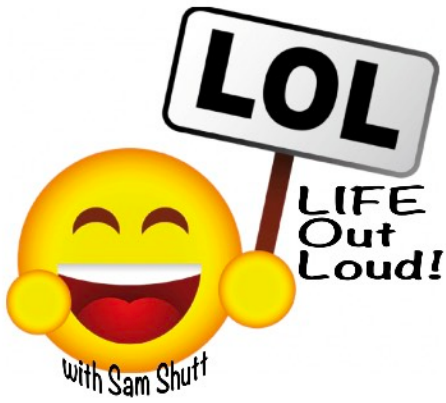
President Millican settled on the brilliant campus master plan of concentric circles with an academic core uninterrupted by traffic, and the university broke ground in March 1967. He hired deans, and they began hiring faculty and staff and developing curriculum. It was an exciting time, made more so when classes began in October 1968 with 1,948 students and 90 faculty members.

During his tenure, President Millican had many successes, proving him to be a visionary in education. Among these, he established the state of Florida’s first bachelor’s degree program in computer science, founded an engineering college and modernized registration. He and Frances began the President’s Leadership Council of student ambassadors. He cherished students and could often be found strolling about the campus, engaging them in conversation.

Much happened during his presidency: The first fraternities were established, President Richard Nixon spoke at a commencement that took place in the drained Reflecting Pond, the Knight of Pegasus became the official mascot, Margaret Mead visited campus, Rita Reutter was named Homecoming queen and appeared on “The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson,” the university was given the OK to establish the Florida Solar Energy Center, and the Alumni Association and Office of Minority Student Services were established. President Millican often said about these early days that if he had to do it all over again, he wouldn’t change a thing. By the end of 1978 when he retired from the presidency and began teaching in the College of Business Administration, UCF had grown to 11,000 students. Later, he served as special assistant to the CEO of the UCF Foundation. Reflecting on his long and successful career, he wrote in his memoir, “Only recently did it occur to me that on this journey of dreams, I was actually reaching for the stars — and I caught a few in my hands.”

Beloved by all who knew him, he was honored throughout his career and retirement: He was honored throughout his career and retirement: He was named president emeritus, the UCF Administration Building is named for him and alumni and donors erected a bronze statue of him in Alumni Plaza on the side opposite the reflection pond. President Millican died in 2010 at the age of 94, preceded in death by his dear wife, Frances. Few universities have experienced the kind of lifelong passion that Charles Millican invested in UCF.

Dr. Beth Barnes, UCF vice president emerita, served on President John Hitt’s leadership team until her retirement in 2008. Barnes retired as vice president and chief of staff. She is a charter member of the UCF faculty and a member of LIFE at UCF. We thank UCF Pegasus Magazine for permission to republish this article from the Spring 2013 issue.



A “sign” of the times?
or...
sign’s’ that humanity is doomed?
Your choice....

IF DOOR DOES
NOT OPEN
DO NOT
ENTER



LIFE gives back to the community!



Knights Helping Knights Pantry

THANK YOU. THANK YOU. THANK YOU.

Our Food Drive on Tuesday, October 12 was a HUGE success thanks to you and your generosity.

The Pantry has not yet given us the summary of the dollars and food, clothing and supplies donated but they will. And we will share as soon as received.

The students who helped us loved meeting you. Thank you.



Mark you calendar

**This year LIFE
will be collecting toys for our
Toys for Tots drive
on**

November 16 & November 23

**Although toys are usually collected,
monetary donations may be made
instead of, or in addition to.**