



Learning Institute for Elders at the University of Central Florida

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

GENERAL

- 2023-2024 was another very eventful and successful year for LIFE at UCF. LIFE enjoyed a record membership enrollment in 2023-2024 with **859** members. The ten-year “**Partnership Agreement**” between UCF and LIFE was renewed and signed by UCF President Cartwright, and Rich Sloane, LIFE President, in a wonderful ceremony at the first LIFE meeting in September 2023. LIFE continued to enhance our members’ ability to participate in LIFE programs with all presentations available for in-person on the UCF campus, as well as through live streaming, and a link to YouTube recordings. LIFE donated funds to the UCF Student Union which enabled them to purchase two new headsets for presenters which have especially enhanced the audio for all LIFE sessions. LIFE welcomed Jacqueline Ulacia, who assumed the duties of the Executive Director of LIFE on April 24, 2023.

LIFE GIVES BACK.

- As noted above, LIFE counted 859 members in 2023-2024 with a total record budget of **\$197,100** and actual available funds for the year of **\$222,715.07** as of August 30, 2023.
 - LIFE was extremely proud and happy to set up an Endowed UCF Undergraduate Scholarship with UCF Foundation from members’ donations to this scholarship program over the years with an initial investment of **\$42,000**.
 - LIFE provided a total of **\$7,500** in honorariums to LIFE speakers, over 60% of whom were UCF Faculty and Senior Staff.
 - LIFE gave **\$28,530** in research grants to UCF faculty & students doing research on projects related to gerontology topics. These grants supported researchers in the following UCF Units: COS-Psychology, College of Medicine, College of Nursing, College of Health Professions & Sciences, & College of Community Innovation and Education
 - LIFE provided **\$1,375** in an undergraduate Scholarship grant and **\$3,000** in undergraduate gerontology research grants.
 - LIFE provided **\$39,500** in Appreciation Awards to a wide variety of UCF schools, colleges and units who continue to provide generous support to LIFE. These grants included gifts to: College of Undergraduate Studies, UCF Student Union, UCF Parking Services, College of Arts and Humanities, Department of Writing & Rhetoric, a special donation **\$15,000** to “UCF Celebrates the Arts,” College of Sciences, College of Medicine, College of Nursing, Office of Global Perspectives, the UCF Library, UCF Card Services, UCF Athletics Office, and the Office of Diversity & Inclusion.

- LIFE again provided an incredible number of toys for the UCF Police, Toys for Tots campaign plus cash donations of **\$2,315**. LIFE also generously supported the UCF Knights Pantry with both Fall and Spring donations of food and money with over **1500 lbs.** of food and record donations of **\$6,530**.
- Finally, we've begun to track the number of LIFE members and time donated supporting UCF faculty and students as research participants. This year approximately **149** members donated approximately **358hrs** volunteering as research participants.

CURRICULUM.

- LIFE had **54** presentations during our Fall 2023 & Spring 2024 terms with **60%** of these presentations given by UCF Faculty & Senior Staff.
- UCF presenters included faculty from: **7** UCF Colleges with **20** individual Departments & Schools represented plus the UCF President, the UCF Athletic Director and the Office of Global Perspectives. Presentations covered an incredible range of topics and disciplines, including failed leaders in history; adult literacy, art; music & musical theatre; space; state, national & international history; genetic genealogy; fentanyl epidemic; James Webb Telescope, etc.
- **740** LIFE Members registered for a record **26** total "Trippin" field events across **18** different venues. Examples included trips to: Historical Orlando Walking Event, Black Hammock Bee Farm, Winter Park Holiday Boat Tour, Holiday Décor at the Alford Inn, UCF Athletic Facilities Tour, UCF Hitt Library Tour, Full Sail Trippin Tour, Backstage Dr. Phillips Center Tour, and many more.

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

- Ann Baretta was honored with the Ray Jones Lifetime LIFE Volunteer Achievement Award, and Gail Agor was honored as the 2023-2024 Outstanding Annual LIFE Volunteer Awardee.
- The LIFE Policies & Procedures and Strategic Plan documents were significantly revised and approved by the Board of Directors.
- The LIFE Executive Director & Membership and PR committees engaged in a record number of outreach efforts including: Healthier West Orange Endowment committee, City of Orlando, Westminster Towers, Legacy Point, UCF Healthy Aging, Taste of Oviedo event, UCF Celebrates the Arts, Altamonte Health Fair and Sunbridge.
- LIFE at UCF had an outstanding end of year Awards Event with a special performance by Classical Guitarist, UCF Professor of Music, Eladio Sharron.

Prepared by Jack McGuire, May 2024

*Special Thanks to Board Members & especially Jacqueline Ulacia, Mike and Gail Agor & Bob Shannon for Submitting data for this report.