



Stuff Worth Knowing!

# LIFEtimes

Gail Agor, Editor [trippin@lifeatucf.org](mailto:trippin@lifeatucf.org)

## LIFE Board of Directors

### President

Rich Sloane

### Vice-President

Mike Agor

### Secretary

Mo Cortese

### Treasurer

Clint Buczkowski

### Directors

Gail Agor

Ann Barretta

Todd Bowers

Sue Chapman

John Cooper

Marcia Enos

Brian Goldiez

Nick Guerra

Zalpha Hashem

Marty Lee

Bob Shannon

Linda Thompson

### Executive Directors

Leslie Collin

Jacqueline Ulacia

### Ex-Officio Members

Wayne Bowen, UCF Liaison

Dick Tucker, Board Member Emeritus



**WOW! LIFE 2023-24 is upon us!** The Curriculum Committee has worked hard to schedule many fascinating lectures for us. Membership has done an amazing job and we are well over 800 members! Of course, my personal favorite committee, **Trippin' through LIFE** has outdone itself to book a number of exciting Trippin' events for the year! All reservations will need to be made on **Member 365**. I think you will find the change, from EventBrite, a positive one.

The beginning of this year is bittersweet; Leslie Collin has decided to retire as of September 28th. (See more from Jack McGuire later in this newsletter.) I will miss her although I am more than confident that our new Executive Director, Jacqueline Ulacia is up to the challenge presented by 800+ seniors.... Her energy makes me look sluggish! -Gail

**Welcome Jacqueline when you get to class!**



President's Message from Rich Sloane

Congratulations on being part of one of the top lifelong learning programs in the nation. While there is no “national ranking” among these programs, just as former UCF Director of Athletics Danny White declared UCF’s football team the tops in the nation at the end of the 2017 season, I’m calling LIFE at UCF the top program of its kind in the country. After all, we haven’t lost a game in over 30 years!

Over the summer LIFE offered members the opportunity to participate in a number of interesting, informative and educational experiences of which I hope you took advantage. With the fall semester comes a time of new and exciting presentations by UCF educators and researchers, along with talks by some of the community and the nation’s most noteworthy individuals. I’m looking forward to our Tuesday gatherings not only to gain knowledge of topics I want to know more about, but to enjoy the social nature of our members and our meetings. It always gives me a sense of the fact that LIFE at UCF is about learning and so much more.

My hope is that you will add to LIFE’s strength by recommending speakers to our Curriculum Committee, and sharing your LIFE experiences with friends and acquaintances so that we may introduce them to our organization and invite them to join you in the family of LIFE at UCF. Please take advantage of the opportunity to nominate a speaker through the online form accessible under the Curriculum Committee tab on the LIFE website; <https://lifeatucf.org/curriculum/suggest-a-speaker-members>.

August - September 2023

Please join me in expressing appreciation to Leslie Collin, retiring as LIFE’s first Executive Director. Under Leslie’s leadership and astute guidance, LIFE has grown and matured in so many ways. Thank you, Leslie. Thanks also to outgoing board members Marcy Kysilka, Diane Wink and Bill Myers for their dedicated service to LIFE. Jack McGuire ascends to the post most desired by organization presidents, that of Past President. Thank you, Jack, for your leadership, wise counsel and steady hand on the tiller.

I want to welcome our new Executive Director, Jacqueline Ulacia, and invite you to introduce yourself to her. She, along with our board of directors, committee volunteers, and Student Union staff are the people who keep the wheels of LIFE well-oiled and turning all year long. And our partnership with UCF remains one of the pillars of LIFE’s foundation. We continue to owe so much of our success to the support of the university across the board.

When I began volunteering with LIFE, I discovered that there’s so much more going on “behind the curtain.” I invite you to draw back the curtain and see for yourself what makes LIFE work.



Opportunities abound to serve on one of LIFE’s committees. If you ask Jacqueline or any of the board members about volunteer opportunities, we will find a spot that works for you. After all, you’re part of the top lifelong learning program in the nation.

August - September 2023



# Leslie Collin

FIRST  
Executive Director  
LIFE at UCF

Heartfelt Tribute by Past President, Jack McGuire

Leslie Collin has been the heart, soul, and leader of “Life at UCF” since she was hired on March 18, 2018, as LIFE Program Coordinator. The LIFE leadership quickly realized what an incredible gem they had in Leslie and promoted her to the position of the first LIFE Executive Director on October 18, 2019.

LIFE had grown in size and complexity since its founding in 1991, and the leadership of LIFE knew that we needed help, but we weren’t exactly sure what that meant. Leslie’s incredible initiative, creative resourcefulness, and clear understanding of LIFE’s vision and goals enabled her to lead LIFE forward. Leslie virtually created the nuts and bolts of the Executive Director position through her careful observations and interactions with LIFE’s leaders, past and present, as well as with the many LIFE volunteers so critical to the overall success of LIFE at UCF. Leslie has worked tirelessly over the past 5 ½ years side by side with LIFE’s Board of Directors, Committee Chairs, and invaluable LIFE member volunteers in leading LIFE through incredible challenges and to achieve goals we only had dreamed of a few years ago. Leslie Collin has LIFE’s utmost gratitude and affection for her work and service to the entire LIFE at UCF organization.





As many of you are aware, I will be retiring at the end of September! I am so fortunate to end my working career at the best job that I have ever had! I knew about LIFE years before my employment. I actually emailed Dr. Tucker and said if the organization was looking for staff, I was interested! I didn't hear from him then, but when I saw the ad online for a part time Program Coordinator 5 ½ years ago, I knew that this was my job. And it truly was.

Working with the LIFE Board, LIFE members and this great University has been not only fun, but extremely rewarding.

It is hard to believe that only 3 years ago we had to reinvent LIFE as we knew it as COVID shut down the University and the activities that many of us enjoyed. This uncertain and unprecedented time was extremely challenging for me and for the LIFE board led by then President Todd Bowers and Jack McGuire. The first year, we didn't accept new members. Yet over 550 LIFE members renewed in Spring 2020 without even knowing what the Fall would look like. In August of 2020 we

we began experimenting with the Zoom webinar platform and then just jumped in with a year of remote lectures. Our return to campus in Fall of 2021 was just as challenging with new protocols to ensure the safety of our members. This year LIFE has over 840 members – making it the largest membership to date! This is an amazing accomplishment that could not have been achieved without the tremendous efforts of the LIFE board and the trust and commitment of our members!

I know I was the right person for the job when I was hired to move the organization from being volunteer led, to staff driven. And I am confident that Jacqueline is the perfect person to now move the organization forward as it grows and continues to provide the lifelong learning experiences our members want.

My husband and I plan to do some traveling this fall, but I look forward to my LIFE membership come spring and reconnecting with all my LIFE friends.

**M  
E  
M  
B  
E  
R  
S  
H  
I  
P**



We would like to Welcome back **652 LIFE** members with a special warm Welcome to 193 additional new members for the 2023-2024 year! Please take the time to greet our new members as you encounter them on Tuesday mornings. Their name badges will say “New Member.”

I would like to thank all of you who supported the LIFE membership drive. What a success! We now have 845 LIFE members!

Your LIFE Membership Committee is here to support you throughout the year. Please reach out to us with any questions about your membership via email to [membership@lifeatucf.org](mailto:membership@lifeatucf.org) or in person on Tuesday mornings at the UCF Student Union facility outside the Pegasus Ballroom before start of the lecture sessions. Look for a Membership Committee member with a GREEN name tag lanyard at the Welcome desk.

Membership committee members: Ann Barretta, Carol Guerra, Zalpha Hashem, Marty Lee, Tim Mathews, Chris Myers and Teresa Reidel.

As you experience the many things that LIFE has to offer during the year, we welcome your feedback and your continued support.

If you have friends or family who may be interested in joining LIFE, please ask them

to complete the Prospective New Member Application on our website [lifeatucf.org](http://lifeatucf.org) and we look forward to inviting them to join us at our next yearly membership drive.

Here are a few membership points of interest to keep in mind as we start the semester and new academic year of our LIFE program:

- When parking on campus, the parking pass must hang from your rearview mirror.
- When attending LIFE classes, we ask that you wear your LIFE membership Name Tag. The nametag must be visible to enter the Pegasus Ballroom, ensuring that only members attend lectures.
- After LIFE orientation on 8 Aug 2023, NEW LIFE Members can visit UCF Card Services to obtain a UCF Student ID card. This office is located opposite the UCF Main Book Store near the Chick-fil-A restaurant. You will need a valid photo ID.
- Your student ID card has an expiration date. If your student ID card is expiring during the next two months (or has expired), you must renew your ID by contacting LIFE Membership via email at [membership@lifeatucf.org](mailto:membership@lifeatucf.org) to obtain an “Application for LIFE Student ID.”
- CURRICULUM (class schedule) This can be found online at [lifeatucf.org](http://lifeatucf.org)
- CAMPUS MAP – Can be found online at [UCF Campus Map, Orlando FL](http://ucfcampusmap.com)
- Member365: You can access your account page by logging in from LIFE’s website at [lifeatucf.org](http://lifeatucf.org). You will see a Member Login tab under the banner. From your personal page you can change, update your contact information, and see any invoices or receipts.
- Lectures: LIFE meets every Tuesday morning during the UCF academic year. Please be seated by 8:40 to hear the announcements which start at 8:45. Please silence all electronic devices so you do not disturb the lecture.
- Guidelines for bringing guests: You may bring one visitor/guest each semester if we are not meeting in the Cape Florida (CF) or Key West (KW) room. Be sure to register your guest at the welcome desk when you arrive so he/she can get a nametag.

Welcome to LIFE and enjoy the variety of speakers and topics and all the other experiences and benefits that LIFE Membership provides.



August - September 2023



I am honored to introduce myself as the new Executive Director for the Learning Institute for Elders at the University of Central Florida. My name is Jacqueline Ulacia, and I am excited to begin working with this esteemed organization.

Allow me to share a little about myself. I am a mother of two charming daughters, Fiona and Kaiya, aged 4 and 10, respectively. My husband, Fanuel, and I have been happily married for several years. In my free time, I enjoy spending time with my family and two dogs, Thor and Sylvie, and exploring Florida's breathtaking landscape. I am originally from New Jersey and moved to Florida 3 years ago. My family and I absolutely love the Sunshine State.

In terms of my professional background, I have spent the past decade working as a Director in Early Childhood Education. Education has always been a central focus of my life. I was drawn to LIFE because of its mission and values, which align with my own. I am excited to embark on this professional journey and look forward to meeting all of our amazing LIFE members in September!!



## Parking Information for LIFE members

LIFE provides registered members with a LIFE Parking hang tag. This tag must be visibly displayed on the rearview mirror when parking on campus. LIFE members can park in any student garage or surface lot that is marked Student Parking "D" (shown as green on the link above). All garages have disabled parking on the first floor as well as surface lots. Your LIFE tag and disabled placard needs to be visible on the rearview mirror, dashboard, or the ADA license plate with the ADA accessible symbol. If disabled spaces are full, LIFE members can park in the B/C spaces as long as they have both their UCF LIFE parking permit displayed and their disabled placard visible on their rearview mirror, dashboard or the ADA license plate with the ADA accessible symbol. LIFE members can also park in Garage I and take the Pegasus Express with their valid UCF ID. The transit station for the Pegasus Express is located between Garage I and Garage A. Surface lot H3 is close to the shuttle station, or the Student Union if walking.

**VIRTUAL PARKING DOES NOT apply to LIFE Members!**



**LIFE Members MUST have a parking pass, visible, in their car's front window**





August - September 2023



At this writing, approximately 150 LIFE members have discovered how easy it is to sign up for a

## Trippin' through LIFE event this year!

Member 365 has made EventBrite a thing of the past!

As for the rest of you...read on!

Last year 613 LIFE members participated in Trippin' events! This year promises more opportunities for all of you! On August 1 our first Trippin' through LIFE tours were posted. Within 7 minutes the first was full, necessitating quick work by Sheri Dyer of your Trippin' through LIFE Committee, who scheduled a second date for the same event. It filled by the end of the day, as did the other posted event. WOW! Perhaps you are wondering..."How did I miss this record breaking sign up? And how can I prevent this from happening again?"

There are **THREE** ways to "stay in the know so you can go **Trippin' through LIFE.**"

- 1) slides before each class session
- 2) Jacqueline's email blast every Tuesday afternoon
- 3) **THE EASIEST...** go to [lifeatucf.org](http://lifeatucf.org), click on Trippin' through LIFE on the black bar drop down menu, click on "Trippin' through LIFE calendar." Scroll through the months to see upcoming events. When you see something that sparks your fancy, click on it and you will immediately get a summary, complete with registration start date, info about the event and price.

When the time comes to register, you only have to click the blue "register now" button. You will be taken to the 'sign in to sign up!' EASY PEASY!

One warning...and **DON'T SHOOT THE MESSENGER...** our

### **Trippin' events have a maximum registration cap.**

This is a number set by the event site and **NOT** Trippin' Committee Members! Once that cap is reached, you will be asked if you wish to "wait list." Should you take that option, you will be notified if/when an opening becomes available.

Take time to check out the Trippin's we have scheduled. I truly believe there is something for **EVERYONE** this year! As we schedule more events, I will get them posted. Remember **Trippin' through LIFE** is part of your LIFE benefit; therefore, events are for current LIFE members only.

Should you have any questions, email me at [trippin@lifeatucf.org](mailto:trippin@lifeatucf.org). -Gail



## *Learning Institute for Elders at the University of Central Florida*

### **ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023**

#### **GENERAL.**

- 2022-2023 was a very eventful and successful year for LIFE at UCF. LIFE enjoyed a record membership enrollment in 2022-2023 with 842 members. We enhanced our ability to reach LIFE members with programs delivered each week live and in-person on the UCF campus, through live streaming, and a link to YouTube recordings of all presentations. LIFE donated funds to the UCF Student Union which enabled them to purchase a new camera lens and lighting fixture to enhance the live stream and recordings of LIFE sessions. Following the retirement of LIFE's first Executive Director, Leslie Collin, we recruited and hired Jacqueline Ulacia who assumed the duties of the Executive Director, April 24, 2023. Leslie provided training and oversight with Jacqueline through the end of the August 2023.
- As noted above, LIFE counted 842 members in 2022-2023 with a total record budget of \$174,150 and actual available funds of \$196,150.
  - LIFE provided a total of \$7,487 in honorariums to LIFE speakers.
  - LIFE gave \$26,500 in research grants to UCF faculty & students doing research on projects related to gerontology topics. These grants supported researchers in the School of Kinesiology and Physical Therapy, Anthropology, Psychology, School of Communication Science & Disorders, the Department of Industrial Engineering & Management Systems, and the Department of Material Science & Engineering.
  - LIFE provided \$1,000 in an undergraduate Scholarship grant, and gerontology research grants [\$750] to two additional UCF undergraduate students.
  - LIFE provided \$25,000 in Appreciation Grants to a wide variety of UCF schools, colleges and units who continue to provide generous support to LIFE. These grants included gifts to: the College of Undergraduate Studies, UCF Student Union, UCF Parking

Services, College of Arts and Humanities including a special donation 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 Pantry, and the Office of Diversity & Inclusion.

- LIFE again provided an incredible number of toys for the UCF Police Toys for Tots campaign plus \$1,927 in cash donations. LIFE also generously supported the UCF Pantry with both Fall and Spring donations of food and money with over 517 lbs. of food and record donations of \$5,982.

## **CURRICULUM.**

- LIFE had 53 presentations during our Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 terms with 57% of these presentations given by UCF Faculty & Senior Staff.
- UCF presenters included faculty from: College of Undergraduate Studies, College of Arts & Humanities, College of Sciences, College of Engineering & Computer Science, Rosen School of Hospitality Management, Nicholson School of Communication & Media, Office of Global Perspectives, and the School of Communication Sciences & Disorders
- Presentations covered a wide and diverse range of distinct topics including over 30 distinct discipline/content areas. A few examples include: Music and Musical Theatre, Astrophysics, Food and Beverage Sciences, Medical Science, Psychology, Philosophy, Political Science, UCF Spirit Teams, Central Florida Arts Community, the history of NASA Seamstresses, etc.
- The LIFE Trippin’ Committee scheduled a record 19 successful Field Trip experiences which involved over 600 LIFE Members. Trips were completed to: Buddhist Temple, Albin Polasek Museum, Tour of UCF Athletic Facilities, Clean the World, Tour of Orlando Water Treatment Plant, two trips to the Orlando Wetlands Park, Winter Park Boat Trip, two trips to the UCF Arboretum, MCO Art Tour, Moore House Museum, Dennis the Bee Guy, Nehrling Gardens, Limbitless Tour, Orange County Courthouse Tour, UCF Backstage Theatre Tour, and St. Johns River Cruise.



## OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

- Special Global Perspectives Presentation by Dr. Zeynep Arda, Chair of the Visual Communication Design Department at Izmir University, Turkey.
- The LIFE Membership and PR committees engaged in a record number of outreach efforts including: Advertising on WUCF-FM, manning a LIFE booth at the “Taste of Oviedo event, presentations at Legacy Point, Sunbridge 50+ community, Lutheran Haven, Palm Valley 55+ community, the UCF Retirement Association, etc.
- Completed and approved major revisions to the LIFE Policies Document
- Completed revision of the LIFE Mission Statement and began revisions to LIFE’s Strategic Plan.
- Purchased and implemented Member365 as a comprehensive member management system and transitioned to a new website: [lifeatucf.org](http://lifeatucf.org).
- Revised Partnership Agreement between UCF and LIFE at UCF.
- LIFE at UCF had an outstanding end of year Awards Event with a special performance by UCF music students of Dr. Sun-A-Park.

Prepared by Jack McGuire, July 2023

\*Special Thanks to Board Members for Submitting data for this report.

As we prepare for another year:



# CHARGE ON!

**See you all in the Pegasus Ballroom, September 5!**