

Stuff Worth Knowing!

# LIFetimes

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HAPPY NEW YEAR  
2025

For those of you who went to Stetson Mansion, you might have noticed the inspirational sayings. Nance & Mike copied them and quite a few are repeated in this LIFetimes. Look for them... All are in red Font!

I believe LIFE at UCF had the BEST Fall Season EVER! All lectures were enjoyed! Fantastic work to all members of the Curriculum Committee!

We also had the most active “Trippin’ through LIFE” events! Our no-show rate has been reduced greatly with an average of 94.8% attendance at all activities! Thank you to everyone who has attended at least one Trippin’ event and a super special thanks to those of you who have registered and attended multiple events! If you have attended at least one Trippin’ please take a few minutes to access the following link to let us know what you enjoyed...and what you didn’t. We have our first committee planning meeting at the end of January and your responses will help our planning for Fall of 2025!

<https://life.member365.org/publicFr/form/index/>

**Drink champagne for no reason!**



*Happy  
New  
Year!*

*from*



**Happy New Year!** Let's "swing into spring." Our LIFE schedule is packed with engaging speakers and educational topics. The Trippin' opportunities are enriching. And a host of UCF faculty and student research projects will be available for you to volunteer. There's so much "LIFE" in our spring calendar for you to take advantage of. Perhaps you know a friend or relative who would enjoy joining LIFE.

Now is a good time to invite them as a guest of yours to attend one of our Tuesday sessions. Just pick a date, "phone a friend," and share the LIFE experience with them. Whether you attend LIFE lectures in person or view them from home as they are live streamed, I hope you take advantage of all LIFE has to offer.

Oh, and by the way...if you couldn't stay up late enough to welcome in the New Year on your 70-inch LED Smart TV, here's a link to remind you of the days that you could stay up that late:

<https://tinyurl.com/2px3v7dh>.

**Find joy in the journey.**



**Laughter is an instant vacation.**

## LIFE at UCF Q&A

### Enrollment Questions Answered

**Q:** Does LIFE have a waiting list?

**A:** LIFE does not have a “waiting list.” We do have a “Prospective Member” list.

**Q:** Why does a prospective member have to wait until a certain date to be an official member?

**A:** LIFE is a partner with UCF. We are adjunct students with ID cards and certain membership benefits that apply only to students. As students, we follow the UCF semester system. Students cannot enroll in UCF classes in the middle of the term and LIFE follows these same dictates. (Students can & do enroll in new classes each semester.)



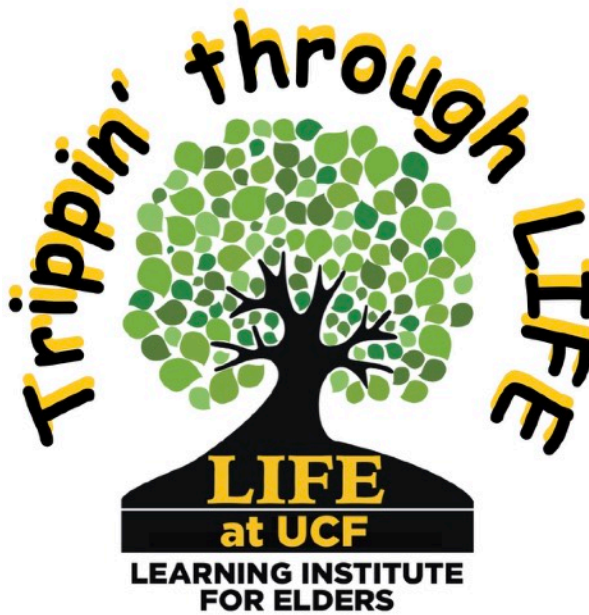
Linda Thompson

You may have noticed a “reserved” sign on some of the tables at our life sessions. These have been introduced to accommodate members who have special needs, such as wheel chairs, walkers or other concerns that being able to exit quickly if needed or have a seat where your equipment is close by and not obstructing the walk ways.



Toss kindness like confetti

Janice Oberwetter, Diversity Chair



The event calendar under Trippin' through LIFE is full of a variety of fun events!

Access the calendar at [lifeatucf.org](http://lifeatucf.org)

Several of these are already full, making it imperative that you stay alert for any Trippin' in which you might want to participate!

Hopefully, this page will make registration easy!

Mike & I have sign up dates highlighted on our personal calendar. We always register for an event BEFORE LIFE on the Tuesday it becomes "live" for registration!

## SPRING TRIPPIN' through LIFE

[lifeatucf.org](http://lifeatucf.org)

**Holocaust Center January 16**

[Open now for registration](#)

**Holocaust Center January 22**

[Open now for registration](#)

**Maitland Art Center January 31 FULL**

**Trippin' with the Bee Guy February 7 FULL**

**Valencia Culinary Tour & Lunch February 12 FULL**

**Clean the World (LIFE gives back public service) Feb19**

[Open now for registration](#)

**Orlando Magic vs. Washington Wizards February 23**

[Open now for registration seats are VERY limited at this price!](#)

**Cabaret at Orlando Shakes February 26 FULL**

**Trippin' through the Orlando Wetlands March 6**

[Opens for registration February 11th](#)

**Orlando Solar Bears game and chalk talk March 16**

[Open now for registration getting limited at this price](#)

**Grand tour of Dr. Phillips Performing Arts Center March 17**

[Opens for registration February 4th](#)

**Titanic: the Artifact Exhibition March 21**

[Opens for registration February 4th](#)

**Canaveral Light & More! April 4**

[Opens for registration February 4th](#)

**Say yes to new adventures!**



**So the Trippin' through LIFE committee can plan for next year, please participate in the Trippin' through LIFE survey at:**

<https://life.member365.org/publicFr/form/index/9e6bc91e6b610baaa29b863886a0ed9065e8c050>

**If not now, when?**

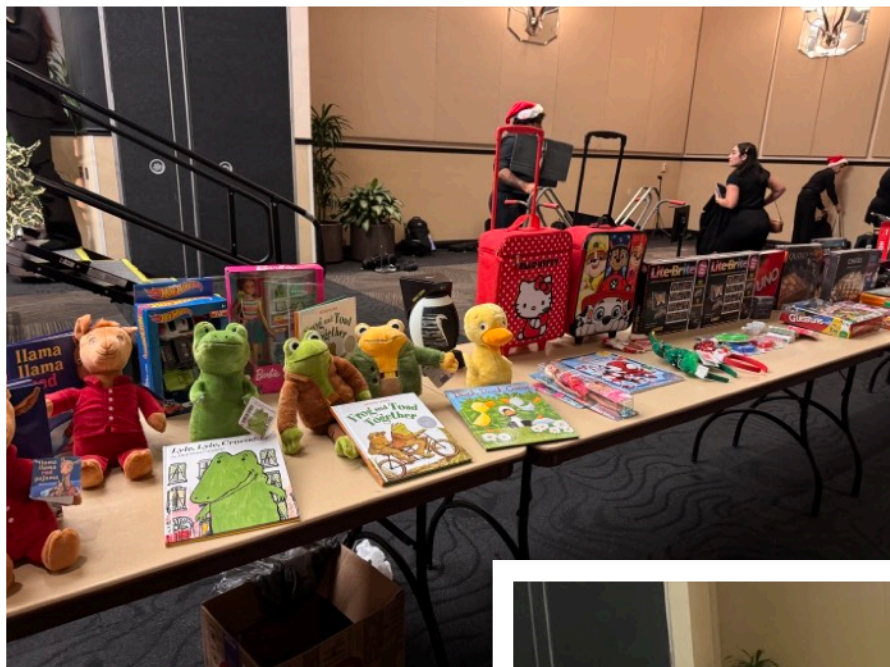
It's that time of year again... carolers are caroling, kids are making lists, the decorations are going up, and LIFE members are once again showing their generosity by bringing in hundreds of toys in LIFE's annual Toys for Tots campaign. But more than that, LIFE members also donated over \$2,000 to this year's drive! These toys, and the toys that will be bought with our donations, will put smiles on the faces of hundreds of Central Florida children this holiday season.

On behalf of the thousands of families across Central Florida who benefit from Toys for Tots, thank you LIFE at UCF members! -Kim Bowers



### Cool Toys for Tots Trivia from Kim Bowers

It was so fun to hear Kim tell LIFE at UCF members that Walt Disney created the iconic Toys for Tots train logo!



**Make it happen,  
shock everyone**

**We rise by lifting others**



LIFE at UCF members are proud to have “Inquiring Minds” ...with that, we **WANT TO KNOW!**

For all your answers we will ask Mo Cortese to **Tell Me Mo!**



## Tell Me Mo! “WHERE DO OUR DUES GO?”

### LIFE GIVES BACK

- 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 set up an Endowed UCF Undergraduate Scholarship with UCF Foundation from members’ donations 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.
- 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 awards 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 provided an incredible number of toys for the UCF Police, *Toys for Tots* campaign plus cash donations of \$2,315.**
- LIFE supported the *UCF Knights Pantry* with over **1500 lbs.** of food and record donations of **\$6,530**.
- LIFE members supported UCF faculty and students as research participants. Approximately **149** members donated approximately **358 hrs.** of volunteering as research participants.



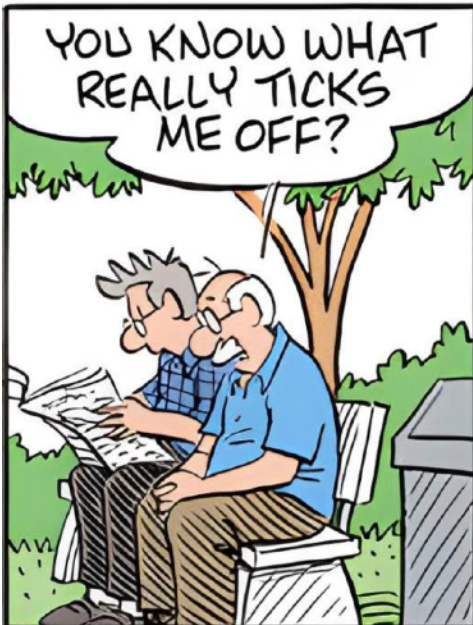
**Where there's life, there's hope**



*Complaining about a problem without posing a solution is called whining!*

-Theodore Roosevelt

**Impossible is for the unwilling**



**See the good in others**



You can never do a kindness  
too soon.  
For you never know how  
soon it will be too late.

**Thank You. Thank You. Thank You**

Another successful Food Drive for Knights Pantry!

**Our October event delivered 284 lbs of non-perishable food, personal care items and business clothing to the Pantry AND \$2500 in cash donations.**

Your generosity is so very welcome!

At any time during the year you may drop food and clothing into the barrel next to the info desk in the Student Union; or deliver items directly to the pantry.

You may also write a check.

Cash donations allow the Pantry to purchase the items it needs; each dollar, donated, converts to about \$3.00 through the Pantry's contacts at Second Harvest Food Bank.

Students can pick up 5 items each day at the Pantry.

Food, tide pods, personal care items.

**The Pantry is open Monday thru Friday.**

Read all about the Pantry on [lifeatucf.org](http://lifeatucf.org).

- Debra Barton



