



Learning Institute for Elders

January, 2012

www.life.ucf.edu

I am the New Year

I am the new year. An unspoiled page in your book of time.



I am your next chance at the art of living. I am your opportunity to practice what you have learned about life during the last twelve months.

All that you sought and didn't find is hidden in me, waiting for you to search it but with more determination.

All the good that you tried for and didn't achieve is mine to grant when you have fewer conflicting desires.

All that you dreamed but didn't dare to do, all that you hoped but did not will, all the faith that you claimed but did not have—these slumber lightly, waiting to be awakened by the touch of a strong purpose.

I am your opportunity . . . to make all things new.

*Happy
New Year*

The Prez Sez ...

Happy New Year! And welcome back for another great semester of LIFE programming. I am honored to be your president and look forward to contributing in a small way to this organization's continued success.

One of the things I hope to promote is getting more "LIFERs" involved with the University. There are so many wonderful opportunities available to us—art, music, library access, sports, programs like Global Perspectives and many others. I'd like to see our members take advantage of more of these offerings.

I look forward to serving you and welcome your ideas.

Martin "Marty" Wiener
President

A brief bio ...

Marty grew up and attended school in Reading, PA. After a brief stint in college, he joined the U.S. Air Force and soon found himself teaching U.S. and foreign officers the rudiments of electronics and airborne radar. Upon discharge he enrolled at Penn State., but financial constraints led him to take a job and finish his B.S. in electrical engineering at night school.

He went to work for General Electric in the space craft division and the company sent him to school for an M.S. In electrical engineering. Marty worked on the first weather satellite.

At this point, Marty decided to change his career path. Having figured out that he was more interested in people than things, he switched to sales and marketing. Now employed by North American Phillips, they paid for him to acquire an M.S. in management. (Nice work, Marty!)

In 1973 he and his family moved to Florida to work for the Hazeltine Corp. which manufactured the

first stand-alone computer terminal for commercial use. As a sales force of one in Florida, Marty "lugged around a 70# piece of equipment" to companies and universities, giving demonstrations throughout the state and averaging 20,000 miles a year. "I talked to anyone who would listen," he joked.

In 2002, Marty retired and devoted more time to his volunteer efforts. As many of you know, Marty is a rowing enthusiast and, over the years, he has not only rowed, but served as a coach and judging official, including being appointed an official for the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta.. He also served as president of the Orlando Rowing Club.

Marty served as president of his Homeowners Association too and has been a long-time volunteer for the American Red Cross and Shepherd's Hope. Mentoring elementary kids through the Boys & Girls Club in Eatonville brought great satisfaction..

During his tenure with LIFE, he has promoted the Honors College and organized the UCF campus and medical school tours. "I find LIFE offers a great opportunity to learn and avoid getting stagnate," he said.

Marty is married to a Reading girl and he and Amelia have two children, Mike and Andrea.

LEADERSHIP

*If there be any truer measure of a man
than by what he does,
it must be by what he gives.*

—Robert South

*The successful person
is one who is able to take his talents
and invest them in the business of living
in a manner that leads to the accomplishment
of a full life of service.*

—Sol Roth

Highlights of Board Meeting

January 9, 2015

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Secretary – Alice Reinhardt

Minutes of last meeting approved. 2012 Planning Calendar distributed.

Treasurer – Pat Fluno

Treasurer's report approved. Net income of \$22,412.

Vice-President – Judy Thames

New board members were introduced—**Pat Fluno**, **Pat James** and **Paulette Geller**. **John Ciesko**, also a new member, was unable to attend. **Diane Brown** was introduced as a membership assistant.

President – Marty Wiener

Marty thanked outgoing president, **Phil Easterling**, for his service. The following appointments were announced: **Lynn & Kimmy Trivett** will handle campus tours, **Roy & Judy Scherer** will be responsible for the Honors Programs. Medical school tours appointment is not yet filled.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership – Betty Ingham

Paid memberships stand at 499. There was some discussion on modifying waiting list policies, including electronic registration, a project **Burt Blau** is exploring.

Curriculum – Pat James

It was announced **Paulette Geller** will assist the chair with curriculum matters. **Hewie Poplack** is handling the program schedule and working with the webmaster so it can be viewed online.

By-Laws & Policies – Ray Jones

Ray asked for more input re: records retention. Two policy changes were proposed: 1) Removing the "Dr." from the title of the gerontology award at Dick Tucker's request; and 2) A guest may attend

only one set of sessions per semester.

Newsletter – Vonnie Bradbury

The newsletter will come out the third Tuesday in January to allow for inclusion of January board minutes. The editor encouraged the board to use the newsletter as a tool for getting information out to the membership.

Legacy – Ray Jones

Applications for the *Richard Tucker Gerontology Award* have been distributed. Committee is being formed to review applications.

Audio-Visual – Steve Hall

Work continues on seeking ways to enhance the audio quality of our speakers. UCF professionals in the area of communication sciences and disorders and audiology will be invited to make a presentation to the board in seeking improvements.

Honors Program – Roy and Judy Scherer

A sign-up sheet is available for those interested in participating in this worthwhile program.

Telephone – Maggie Harris

At the present time, telephone activity is minimal.

Safety – Unfilled

No report.

Medical School Tours – Unfilled

No report.

Sunshine – Chuck Fritz

A greater effort to publicize this service will be made by publishing an appeal in the newsletter.

Webmaster – Burt Blau

An automated membership program was discussed. The purchase of Adobe software to accomplish this task was approved.

UCF Campus Tours – Kimmy & Lynn Trivett

Two tours a year will be offered to LIFE members.

Venue Committee – Vonnie Bradbury

Study options for providing greater access to programs and provide for growth.

LEAD SCHOLAR

Sheila Heiman is bringing a fresh, young presence to LIFE as a LEAD SCHOLAR. As such, she is expected to perform a certain number of hours of service and LIFE will be the beneficiary of that stipulation. A psychology major with a strong interest in leadership, she will be interacting with LIFE in a variety of capacities this semester. Perhaps you have spotted her at the registration table recently.

Sheila already has an impressive resume. She has held positions as a teacher's assistant and camp counselor. She has served internships with the Sarasota Fire Department and the Office of Governor Charlie Christ. In addition, she has been on the Campus Activity Board and promoted the March of Dimes among students.

It is hoped that Sheila can gain some valuable experience working with us who have more experience. And we just might learn something from her as well.

Please welcome Sheila. You can't miss her. She's the one without any wrinkles!

Mirror, Mirror
on the Wall

What the Hell
Happened?



BOARD INTRODUCTIONS

It's a pleasure to introduce your new board members who will be working hard to make your LIFE experiences the best they can be.

JOHN CIESKO - Born and raised in Illinois, John has a B.S. Degree in Industrial Administration from the University of Illinois. He served as a lieutenant in the U.S. Army and has worked for major companies such as Honeywell, General Electric, Unysis and Lockheed Martin in Orlando. John has served on the curriculum committee.

PATRICIA FLUNO - Pat has two accounting degrees, a BS from Syracuse University and an MS. from the University of Illinois with a major interest in financial computer systems. She has been the Long-Term Care Ombudsman for the State of Florida and has held several positions with her homeowner's association, including director, newsletter editor and legal investigator. She has served as webmaster for Newcomer's of Central Florida.

PAULETTE GELLER - Paulette is a nationally-recognized pioneer in the development of community-based services for older adults and was the Program Director for Older Adults at the Winter Park Health Foundation. Before relocating to Florida, she was Director of Day Services for the Jewish Senior Living of Rochester, NY and chair of the National Adult Day Services Assn. She is a storyteller, a humorist and motivational speaker and has been a program presenter at LIFE.

PATRICIA JAMES - Pat has a BA and MA in English from UCF. She has taught in the UCF English and art departments and has served on the board of Crealde. In addition, she developed a pilot program in art for Florida Hospital which flourished for 15 years. Her poetry has been published in magazines and university journals. She has served as a board member and president of the Sweetwater Oaks Garden Club and currently chairs the LIFE Curriculum Committee.

UCF DISCUSSION GROUP

About a dozen LIFE members gather together for discussion following LIFE's regular programming each week. The group meets at 12:30 p.m. in the Student Union. They choose "hot topics" currently in the news and hold lively give-and-take sessions. Over the holiday break, they met for breakfast. Each year they make predictions and tally the results at the end of the year. See below.

For further information, contact Ralph Schaeffler, leader of the group. All are welcome.

2011 PREDICTIONS & RESULTS

PREDICTION: Private industry will take over the space program.

RESULT: Yes – United Space Alliance, an industrial group have taken over manned space travel; the shuttle is no more.

PREDICTION: Sarah Palin will not run for office in 2012.

RESULT: Yes – Sarah Palin, so far, has not put her hat in the ring.

PREDICTION: Allen Grayson will stay in politics.

RESULT: Yes – Grayson is running.

PREDICTION: High Speed and Sun Rail will be approved.

RESULT: Yes & No – Sun Rail was approved; high speed rail was not.

PREDICTION: The job situation in Florida will improve.

RESULT: Yes, but very little.

PREDICTION: The fair tax will be introduced by December in Congress.

RESULT: No, but for awhile 6,6,6 was popular.

PREDICTION: Health care bill will be modified.
RESULT: Maybe – it still needs to go to the Supreme Court.

PREDICTION: The NRA will not approve more extensive background checks.

RESULT: Yes – some states now require a picture id.

PREDICTION: Disney will settle its union dispute in favor of unions.

RESULT: Yes – Disney did settle.

PREDICTION: TSA will be privatized and unionized.

RESULT: TSA is now a private company.

*Submitted by:
Ralph Schaeffler*

SHARE A LITTLE SUNSHINE



Do you know a LIFE MEMBER who is sick or has suffered a loss? The Sunshine Committee would like to know so that we can send a card letting that person know we, at LIFE, are thinking about them.

Contact any LIFE board member with the appropriate information and they will see that it gets to **Pat Fritz**, a ray of sunshine herself and the person in charge of handling this important gesture of concern and caring. It's the little things . . .

TO RUSSIA, WITH LOVE . . .



[Carol Reagles and Carolyn Fost took a 25-day river cruise to Russia in August, 2011. Here is Carolyn's account of their trip.]

It actually started in Kiev, Ukraine, a lovely city with a fascinating juxtaposition of radically different architectural styles side-by-side. Think a 16th century wooden house next to a stainless steel and glass, 20th century behemoth and around the corner from a 12th century Russian Orthodox church with golden domes!

While we were there, we went to the Chernobyl Museum. The museum is extremely well done in and of itself, but we met the last surviving supervisor of the clean-up effort. He told us that 731 conscripts from Ukraine, who had completed their mandatory service, were ordered back into the army to manually distribute a mixture of lead, gravel, cement and an unnamed chemical over the radioactive earth surrounding the Chernobyl plant. It took them 48 days of 18-20 hours duration to do the job.

When he got home, he was unable to bend a single joint in his arms without cracking open blisters which oozed for days. He reported that this did not completely end for almost FIVE years. His doctors were not permitted to place the term, "radioactive burns," on his medical records. Then, just to top off a dismal story, he reminded us that the concrete cover which was placed over the defunct reactor is now cracking—25 years later. A grim reminder of the recent Japanese experience with nuclear reactors.

Then, on to Moscow, where we began our 14 days on a riverboat. We were fascinated by, of all things, the traffic congestion. I'll never complain about traffic congestion in Orlando again (or at least not until the next time). The Kremlin and Red Square were familiar from years of Soviet propaganda, yet the size of the square is surprisingly small.



St. Basil's Cathedral, with its nine spires, stands out, of course. It seems that every church in Russia is under renovation as they try to undo some of the excesses of the communist years. The GUM department store used to be the exclusive preserve of the top government officials but is now a mall housing very expensive and fashionable goods, mostly from Europe.

1000 miles along the Volga River, through 16 locks and two of the largest lakes in Europe (Lagoda and Onega), on our way to St. Petersburg. We sailed past dozens of small towns and millions of birch trees, the source of Russia's huge timber industry. In the middle of Lake Onega is Kizhi Island, one of the most ancient, inhabited sites in Russia. It includes many wooden churches and chapels brought from other parts of northern Russian. But the highlight is the Church of the Transfiguration with its 22 timbered onion domes from the 9th century. No paint has ever been applied to any of these buildings!

At last, we're in St. Petersburg and the famous Heritage Museum. It is said that if one were to

visit every day for the whole day, it would take 7 years to see it all. In our one-day visit, we barely scratched the surface . . . although we counted 561 steps. No wonder we were tired!

St. Petersburg is a beautiful city blending Russian and European styles, 60 canals and hundreds of bridges. St. Isaac's Cathedral, the largest in the city, is topped by a dome gilded with more than 200 pounds of gold.

We left the boat in St. Petersburg and went by bus to Tallinn, Estonia, where we heard the story of the "Singing Revolution." It goes something like this. When Gorbachev announced his program of perestroika and glasnost, Estonians began to gather at an outdoor band shell to sing patriot songs. They did this night after night starting with about 30 men, finally working up to over 3000 people, including women. They were breaking no laws so when they reminded Gorbachev that they were never really Russian and wished to return to the original nation of Estonia, he simply let them go. Another bloodless revolution.

We went by ferry to Helsinki, Finland, and were amazed by the hundreds of bicycles. (What do they do in winter?) And by the prices in the stores. If you go to Finland, take money—lots of it.

All in all, a fascinating, educational and fun trip!

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What's Your Story?

Do you have a travel story you'd like to share with LIFE members? You can either write it yourself or I will be glad to help you with it. The world is full of so many interesting places; share your adventures and experiences.

Vonnie Bradbury
Editor
vonbrook@aol.com

Road Scholar Elderhostel Institute Network

Road Scholar, through the Elderhostel Institute Network, is offering a travel opportunity to LIFE members as part of our affiliation with the Lifelong Learning Institute (LLI). A special Cuba program, *Cuba Today: People and Society* is now open for enrollment and is offering \$100 off to LLI members.

The following program dates have been reserved for LLI members:

April 8-16, 2012
April 22-30, 2012
April 29-May 5, 2012

Anyone interested in enrolling or learning more about this special program may call toll-free (800) 322-5315. Please reference Program #20437 and indicate that you are a member of a Lifelong Learning Institute (which you are).

[This above announcement is for informational purposes only and should not be considered a program endorsement by or from the Learning Institute for Elders.]

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CORRECTIONS

In the November 2011 newsletter under "Grants and Awards" the \$1000 award to Ms. Ina Carpenter was inadvertently omitted.

Likewise, the total amount of grants and awards totaled \$31,000, not \$30,000 as shown, the result of a 2010 grant which was returned and subsequently added to the 2011 funds.

The November 2011 newsletter incorrectly listed Judy Thames as a nominee for the Board of Directors. Judy is already a member of the board.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Curriculum Committee

With a full complement of members, the Curriculum Committee has established a meeting schedule for Spring 2012:

January 13
February 21
March 27

The committee will meet promptly from 12-1 p.m. in Room 225 off the Student Union following regular class sessions.

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Knights Helping Knights Pantry

LIFE is once again coming to the rescue of hungry students by bringing nonperishable food items to class on Tuesday, January 17. Boxes will be placed by the registration table to receive your donations..

It's not just our students who are having trouble making ends meet. In an article in the latest *AARP Bulletin*, there was a brief article about a nationwide problem.

"Here's a new reality on campus: colleges opening food pantries to help feed their students. The schools, including the University of Georgia, Michigan State University, and the University of Arkansas, are stepping in because parents are struggling with unemployment or lower wages and have trouble helping out their children. Many of the pantries were started by students(as was UCF's) and are stocked with private donations.

Deadline for Submissions

The deadline for submission of material for the February newsletter is February 7.

The Editor

PARAPROSDOKIANS – Huh???

Paraprosdokians are “figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected; frequently used in a humorous situation, i.e. *where there's a will, I want to be in it.*

Here's some examples:

Do not argue with an idiot. He will drag you down to his level and beat you with experience.

Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.

We never really grow up, we only learn how to act in public.

War does not determine who is right—only who is left.

Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.

Evening news is where they begin with “Good Evening” and then proceed to tell you why it isn't.

To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.

A bus station is where a bus stops. A train station is where a train stops. On my desk, I have a work station.

New Year's Resolutions

2008: I will get my weight down below 180 lbs.

2009: I will follow my new diet religiously until I get below 200 pounds.

2010: I will develop a realistic attitude about my weight.

2011: I will work out 3 days a week.

2012: I will try to drive past a gym at least once a week.