



# Learning Institute for Elders

March, 2011

[www.life.ucf.edu](http://www.life.ucf.edu)

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## An Irish Blessing

May the lilt of Irish laughter  
lighten every load.

May the mist of Irish magic  
shorten every road . . .

And may all your friends remember  
all the favours you are owed!



# Highlights of Board Meeting

February 7, 2011

## EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORTS

### Secretary - Alice Reinhardt

January minutes were approved with one correction.

### Treasurer - Ian King

Minor changes were reported in the balance sheet/profit & loss statements from last month. Thank you notes will be sent to Bob Holmes, UCF Foundation Director, and President John Hitt for their contributions to the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. Treasurer's report accepted.

### Vice President – Marty Wiener

Curriculum committee meeting scheduled for February 15 at 12 noon.

### President – Phil Easterling

It will be announced that “reserved” seats are to be given up at 8:40 on Tuesday mornings as a courtesy to others. It was agreed to contribute \$100 to Jeff Moore and his UCF music students for their jazz performance at the 20<sup>th</sup> reception. The board was asked to think about a dues increase for next year to establish a legacy for the organization.

## EX-OFFICIO

### UCF Liaison – Dick Tucker

Dick commended the editor of *Florida Future* for the article about LIFE and our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The board commended Dick for arranging the celebration and for the thoroughness of his historical presentation. It was noted that many UCF administrators and faculty attended, and our visibility was definitely enhanced.

## STANDING COMMITTEES

### Curriculum – Ray Jones

Jones reported that the committee is working on the Spring 2012 programming. The Fall 2011 lecture outline is complete. It was noted that certain faculty are now coming to us, offering to do a program.

### Membership – Betty Ingham

It was agreed to post the following on the LIFE website: **“No more applications are being taken until further notice.”** Other options were discussed briefly by the board. Vonnie Bradbury will chair a committee to look into the issue. Dick Tucker, Mike Hampton, and Judy Thames will also serve on the committee.

### By-Laws/Policies – Ray Jones

Jones asked for an amendment to paragraph 4 of LIFE policies which will put in writing the current practice of electing officers from the board membership. This change would not be subject to a membership vote and was approved.

Ray proposed a change to LIFE By-Laws, section 4.2, regarding a retiring president's board term being extended. This should only apply if the president's elected term and board term expire concurrently. To correct this, Ray will formally present a by-law change to the board at the next meeting, along with a minor change to the deadline for the annual meeting announcement. Upon board approval, the updated By-Laws will be presented to the general membership for final approval.

## **AD HOC COMMITTEES**

### **Newsletter – Vonnie Bradbury**

Next issue will come out March 15 as there is no LIFE scheduled during Spring Break.

### **Honors/Tours – Marty Wiener**

Dates for Med School tours were announced.

Three more planned of 35 people each. Campus tour planned on February 22 after class. First Honors College event is February 8.

### **Historian – Dell Shadgett**

Dell has agreed to serve as historian. Members are asked to drop off items of historical interest at the membership desk.

### **Greeter/Attendance – Lucia Pulido**

Lucy reported no problems. 448 attended 20<sup>th</sup> celebration. Board approved an unwritten policy that **visitors will not be allowed** when classes are held in the Cape Florida room.

### **Audio/Tech – Steve Hall**

Steve needs a fill-in for one week in March. Discussion re: changing audio settings to enhance lower sounds for the hard-of-hearing. A light and timer have been installed on the podium. Our website is down and being upgraded—Burt hopes to have it working by the end of the week.

### **Sunshine – Chuck Fritz**

A card will be signed by board members for Dee Burke, ex-board member, who is convalescing from surgery.

### **Safety – Judy Thames**

Judy has met with Student Union personnel and will soon have a copy of current safety policies. She reported one incident. These safety reports will be kept in the LIFE office.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Student Research Award** – Ian summarized results of recent meeting: 1) Award should be of interest to elder population, 2) UCF would support this function, with professors screening projects, and 3) Funding could come from out-side companies and organizations as well as LIFE members. Ray Jones raised the possibility of giving a living scholarship in honor of Dick Tucker. More information will be presented next month.

**Independent Transportation Network (ITN)** – Judy and Dick will present a report on this organization (volunteer transportation group for elders) at the next meeting.

**LIFE legacy** – Ray Jones will head an ad hoc committee to study the establishment of a LIFE legacy. Phil volunteered to serve on the committee.

Next board meeting is scheduled for February 28.

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## LAUGH AND THE WORLD LAUGHS WITH YOU ...



Reporter interviewing a 104-year-old woman:

“And what do you think is the best thing about being 104?” the report asked.

“No peer pressure,” she replied.

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### POET'S CORNER



#### **The Blooming Truth**

Life is like a flower.  
We blossom with joy.  
We bloom with beauty.  
We bear luscious fruit,  
And shrivel though not ready.

--Janice Soldinger  
--2000  
--LIFE Member

# Highlights of Board Meeting

## February 28, 2011

### **EXECUTIVE BOARD**

#### **Secretary – Alice Reinhardt**

Corrections to By-Laws/Policies report were read. Report approved as corrected.

#### **Treasurer – Ian King**

\$1500 expense noted for the anniversary buffet. Net income stands at \$7000. Hy Meltz (former president and board member) was memorialized with a check to UCF Foundation. Treasurer's report accepted.

#### **Vice President – Marty Wiener**

No report

#### **President – Phil Easterling**

August board meeting may be moved to the day before classes begin.

### **EX-OFFICIO**

**UCF Liaison** – Dick Tucker reported a request from an engineering student to do a survey within the LIFE membership was presented and approved. It will be stressed to these students that LIFE would be interested in seeing the results of their efforts when completed. Dick reported a business has approached LIFE to do focus groups on assistance equipment used by elders, for which we would receive \$1000. Ray Jones moved we accept offer to have the business present its proposal to LIFE with no guarantee of number of participants. Roy Scherer will be the go-between for details and contracts. Board approved the motion.

### **STANDING COMMITTEES**

#### **Curriculum – Pat James**

New members have joined the committee and programs are planned through Fall 2011. August 24 is first class session. Room designation will be printed on the schedule.

#### **Membership – Betty Ingham**

Membership renewals will begin April 1 allowing 4 weeks to collect dues before disbanding for the summer. **Deadline for renewals was set for June 1.**

#### **By-Laws/Policies – Ray Jones**

Jones presented three changes in policy (see below) and must be published and approved by membership. Changes were approved.

#### **Past Presidents Committee**

No report

### **“Tours R Us” - Marty Wiener**

Marty indicated he had some concern that people sign up for these tours and then do not show up. First event of Honors program went well. A request has been made for a repeat of the Burnham Institute tour.

## **AD HOC COMMITTEES**

### **Committee on Future Growth – Vonnie Bradbury**

A brief history of recent studies concerning our extended wait list was given. Possible options have included going to two sessions per week and video-conferencing in other rooms within the Student Union. Recommendations: Hold membership at 500 members and increase dues to \$125 per year with deadline of June 1 for renewals. After considerable discussion, the issue was tabled in lieu of LIFE Legacy findings and recommendations.

### **LIFE Legacy – Ray Jones**

Ray presented options for naming rights in UCF Performing Arts Center. Opportunities are limited at this time by the cost. A more viable option was introduced: create an annual grant in the name of Dick Tucker for gerontology research, to be funded by a dues increase. Ray moved that we establish a minimum \$10,000 annual gerontology grant in the name of Dr. Richard Tucker, funds to be generated by individual donations and a dues increase of \$25 beginning Fall 2011. Motioned seconded by Judy. Motioned carried.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**ITN program** –Judy Thames asked to have a representative from ITN explain their program to LIFE at a regular Tuesday class. ITN offers transportation to visually-impaired seniors and adults. Request approved.

### **AudioVisual/Tech – Steve Hall**

Our earlier start time has created problems with AV and computer set-up. Technology to assist the hearing impaired is still under study. Chuck Fritz reported that in the past we have reserved front row seats for the hearing and visually-impaired. Jones moved that we re-establish the policy of reserving 12 front row seats for this use. Approved. It was noted that speakers have been running overtime. Steve was authorized to purchase a timer to remind speakers when it is time to stop for questions.

Next board meeting April 4.

**RICHARD D. TUCKER  
GERONTOLOGY RESEARCH GRANT**



**\$10,000**

**An Annual Award**

**In recognition of his dedication  
and many contributions  
to the founding and continuing  
success of the  
Learning Institute for Elders**

**PROPOSED CHANGES  
TO  
LIFE BY-LAWS**

LIFE at UCF board has proposed the several changes to the By-Laws. These changes will be voted on at a special membership meeting at the start of our April 19 class. The changes are as follows:

Change the last sentence in Section 4.1 to read:

**“When the outgoing president's term on the board expires concurrent with his/her term of office, then he/she shall serve ex-officio on the board of directors for one year following service as president.”**

Add the following to the end of Section 6.2:

**“The terms of appointed board members of one year or less do not apply to the term limits imposed by Section 6.2 above.”**

Change the first sentence of Section 9.2 to read:

**“Nominees for the Board of Directors shall be presented by the nominating committee to the Board of Directors and then to the membership at least 14 days prior to the annual meeting.”**



**DEADLINE  
FOR  
MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS**

**June 1, 2011**

**\$125.00**

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A Note from Dee . . .



*[Many of you, I'm sure, have missed seeing that pretty, dark-haired lady with the big smile at the registration table for the last few months. Many have asked about her and were concerned about her. Here, in her own words, is her response. Ed.]*

Hello to All at LIFE:

This is a “Dee update.” I have really missed those Tuesdays and all of you fellow students, especially those who stopped by the Membership area. For me, that position was truly a labor of love.

For those who may not be aware, I went for my physical in December 2010 and my doctor found a growth on my thyroid. A sonogram followed, and it was called a “nodule.” A biopsy came up with an indeterminate prognosis.

On January 21, I had surgery and what they found was called a “tumor.” A thyroidectomy came next. Following another biopsy and sonogram, this thing had a new name: “thyroid cancer.” New meds were added and I began the healing process. A month later those medicines were discontinued due to negative side effects.

Now we are working on TSH (thyroid stimulating hormones) numbers. The goal is to reach 30, up



from a base of 1 on February 22. Blood tests on March 1 showed the TSH to be at 12. Better, but not there yet.

Apparently, diet and metabolism control this factor, and it takes from 2-3 weeks to see results. I go for weekly blood tests and, once I reach the magic 30, I'll have a full body scan to determine if anything else is going on. Radioactive iodine treatment will be next. Of course, there will be many follow-up visits to the doctor. I was told you are only as clear as your last visit. And, while I am very positive about this process, I am also a realist.

Because so many have expressed concern, I wanted to share this with each of you. Thank you for all your caring. I have received calls, cards, emails and visits. . I have been so blessed and feel truly loved.

I'm not sure I will make it to LIFE this spring, but let me leave you with this thought: Fellow students, grasp the moment, enjoy the time. I miss you and I miss being with you at LIFE.

Thanks,  
Dee Burke  
*dburke1943@gmail.com*



*The best thing  
to hold onto in life  
is each other.*

--Audrey Hepburn



## “The Blind Side” – Part II

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For the sequel to the award-winning movie, “The Blind Side,” Sandra Bullock is going to have to cut her hair real short and go from blonde to a salt & pepper look. Her husband will need to be played by a strong Jimmy Stewart-type guy, tall, soft-spoken. The movie will be shot in Titusville instead of Memphis, and the cast of characters will expand from one poor, homeless football player to nearly a dozen lost and struggling young boys and men.

However, there's no need to film a sequel . . . because the two main characters are right here in our midst. “Mom” and “Pops,” as they are called by “their kids,” are known to us as **Kimmy and Lynn Trivett**. This is their story, a love story in four parts: a story of one couple's love for God, for each other, for the young people they mentored and for UCF.

Nancy Alexander Kimmons grew up in North Carolina, the oldest of four children, with three younger brothers. The youngest two were quite rebellious, so much so their mother went back to school, leaving it pretty much up to Kimmy to raise them. “I was used to be in charge,” she said.



Lynn Trivett grew up in the West Carolina mountains, the youngest of 8 children. His mother died when he was a year and a half and he was sent off to East Tennessee where he grew up. After graduating from college, he enlisted in the Air Force for 4 years. He then went to work for the Apollo Mission program in Brevard County.

Lynn and Kimmy met at a church luncheon. He asked her to pray for his nephew who was a junkie and who had previously lived with Lynn. Loving young people and knowing what it was to grow up without a father, Lynn became a Big Brother to a young man who had been taken from his parental home and placed in foster care.



## HOME SWEET HOME

Rusty was 13 years old at the time and his friends petitioned the court to give Lynn legal custody. Only 28 years old, Lynn became Rusty's legal guardian.

About this time Kimmy and Lynn started dating. The first date went well, but the second was a bit iffy. According to Kimmy, Lynn was not feeling well and she kept asking him what she could do to help. He finally replied, "Would you just be quiet!" "Well," she said, "I knew I was not interested in this man." However, she was interested enough to go on a third date and by the fourth, Lynn turned to her, saying, "Kimmy, I've known for 2 years that you're the person God has for me." "Does that mean you want to marry me?" Kimmy asked. "I thought you'd never ask!" was his reply. Less than a year later they were married. And, with that, Kimmy became a wife and a mother to troubled teens and young men.

And each one had a story, usually a sad story. Fatherless boys. Broken homes. Dysfunctional families. Young people with no place to go.

There was Bryan whose father had deserted his family. He worked for Lynn in contract sales after high school and later moved in with them. He just had his 49<sup>th</sup> birthday and is doing well.

Lynn's nephew turned up once again and lived with them for a little while. When he left, he took some money that wasn't his. Coming back a third time, Lynn said he couldn't live with them but, if he ever decided to get his life right, they would see that he went to a camp for alcoholics and addicts. He went to the camp and he turned his life around. He has been married for 22 years and has 2 sons.

Then there was Jonathan, estranged from his father and one of three boys, was a basketball player but not good enough for Division I. However, he was accepted at a small school in SC called Erskine College, the same college Kimmy graduated from. (Small world!) Jonathan got two degrees there and when he married two years ago, Lynn was his best man.

Not every experience was a good one. There were heartaches and disappointments. One young man had been through the state system. Lynn and Kimmy went to foster parenting classes and did what they could, but it didn't work. He ran away after 2-3 months of living with them.

There were several others, but the last boy to live with them was Leonard, a guard on the Astronaut High School basketball team. They had watched him play ball and had helped him out with some new clothes in the past. He called them around Christmas time in 1998 and asked if he could move in with them.

When he arrived, he noticed all the pictures on the wall of others who had been part of their family and he asked, "Any black people live with you?" Actually, he was the first, not that it made any difference. He spent his last semester of high school with them Leonard was everyone's favorite. Won awards. Best all-around kid. Spoke in elementary schools. Wonderful manners. A teacher had told him she

saw a lot of worth in him, and he wanted to be successful. Today he is a personal trainer and owns his own business in Tampa.

Lynn and Kimmy are 100% with UCF. They have been following UCF football for years, never missing a game, at home or away. (They missed one game when one of the kids was getting married.) They follow basketball, and baseball, and women's volleyball. "UCF is such a gift to us," said Kimmy. "It's always been a wonderful school, but now it's becoming better known. It's a place you can be very proud of." They are members of the Golden Knights and the Alumni Association.

Blindsided? Not these folks. They have known from the very beginning what and who was important to them. God. Young people. Sports. They built their life together on it. Better than any old movie could ever be!

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**Having a place to go—is a home**  
**Having someone to love—is a family**  
**Having both—is a blessing**

*--Donna Hedges*

V.B.