



January 2019

# LIFETimes



Go to our website:  
[www.life.ucf.edu](http://www.life.ucf.edu)  
where the LIFETimes can be viewed in color!

**LIFE**  
**at UCF**

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# Lunch with LIFE

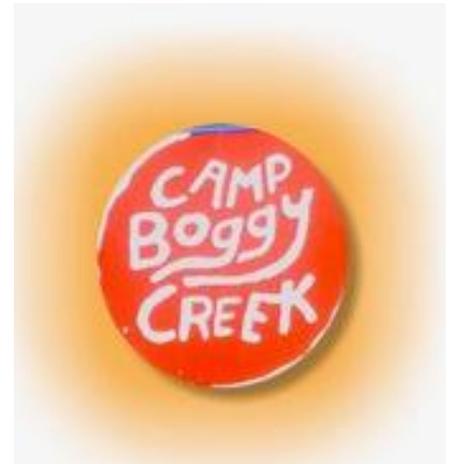
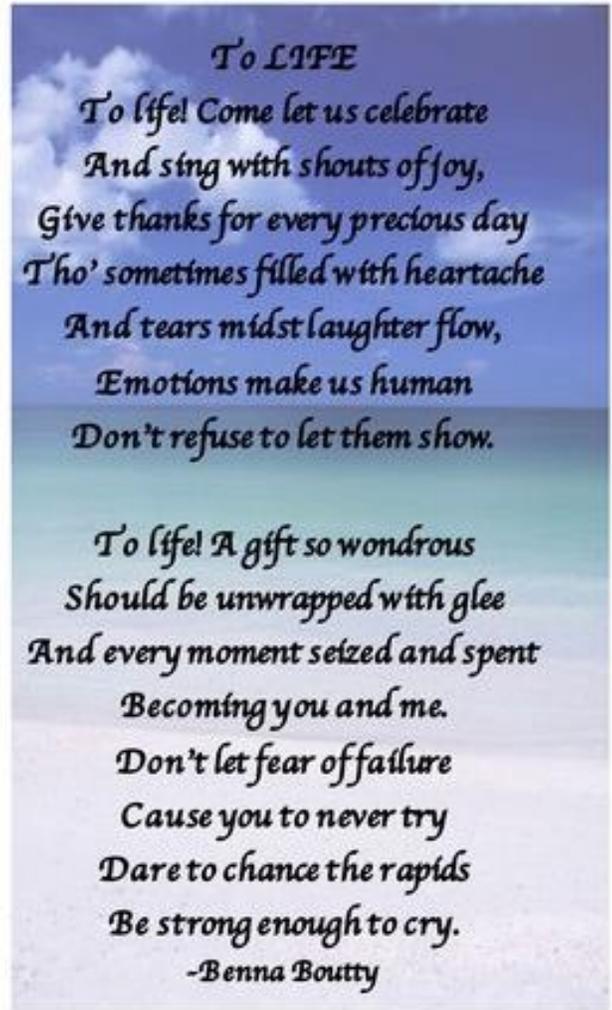
LIFE at UCF and the Burnett Honors College are excited to announce a new partnership on a program called LUNCH with LIFE! 12 LIFE students and 12 Honor's students will attend a 10:30 LIFE program and then go back to the Honor's college for catered lunch followed by small group discussion.

Our first program will be on Tuesday, February 5th, 2019 at 10:30am in the Pegasus Ballroom. Reserved seating will be held for LIFE and Honor's students to sit together.

Following the program at 11:30, the group will go to the BHC for a catered lunch and discussion.

Watch your Tuesday email blast on January 15th, 2019 for sign-up information. The second LUNCH with LIFE will be held on March 3rd.

Julian Meitin, LIFE President, was handed this poem at the last LIFE meeting of 2018; he then sent it to the LIFETimes to share with LIFE members.



Above: A beautiful camp for special children - Sharon Couture led the tour for LIFE members, sharing the beautiful campus, cabins, art and theater activities that help children enjoy their stay.



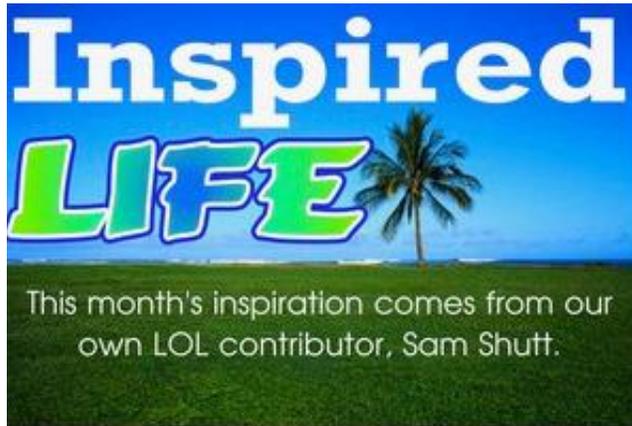
WOW! 2018 seemed to zoom by and now we have begun 2019! I hope every LIFE member and loved ones had a wonderful holiday season and is now prepared to enjoy the array of classes that our Curriculum Committee has prepared. As always, there are several ways to educate yourself on upcoming sessions. 1) You will receive an email prior to the next meeting; 2) check out our website, [www.life.ucf.edu](http://www.life.ucf.edu); 3) save the copy of the spring schedule printed in this month's LIFETimes. In your email, by the time you get

home each week, there is a short survey about the speakers we just heard. Take a minute, (seriously, it won't take longer than that) to fill it out. This is valuable to the committee for future scheduling. If you have a suggestion for a speaker, let the committee know by filling out a green suggestion sheet that is always available at the Welcome table each week. I cannot tell you how delighted I have been with the number of members who have asked if we would be interested in their story for "spotLIFE!" Don't be shy, let's keep this popular column going. We have 800 members, each with an interesting tale to tell. If you miss me at a LIFE meeting, email me at [agorgail@gmail.com](mailto:agorgail@gmail.com) and we will add you to the queue of fantastic stories for a future issue!

If you have a hankering to write a monthly column, bring it on! Diane Wink; "a Wink at LIFE," has become a contributor. Her humorous stories about UCF

life, past and present, never fail to produce a chuckle (or guffaw). Our first "spotLIFE" participant, Sam Shutt, has made searching for a "funny" or "funnies" obsolete since he now is the provider for "LIFE Out Loud, LOL" each month. This month he has also contributed our "Inspired LIFE." If you want to give writing and/or contributing a shot, we'd love to add you to the staff!

The last thing I'd like to share, Alli and I are adding a LOT more color to LIFETimes. The only way to view this colorful new newsletter is to go online to [www.life.ucf.edu](http://www.life.ucf.edu) and click on the newsletter tab. LIFE is ever so much more enjoyable in living color!



**"Be decisive. Right or wrong, make a decision. The road of LIFE is paved with flat squirrels who couldn't make a decision."**



-Unknown-

# CHARGE ON:



A 04

## WORD FROM OUR LIFE PRESIDENT

Welcome back to the Spring 2019 sessions of Lifelong Learning at Life@UCF! I hope you all enjoyed a wonderful Holiday Season — Now back to class. As you may see on our schedule of class presentations we have extraordinary variety in our class sessions this Spring. I always enjoy the three sessions from the music department as we view talented young performers of exceptional levels of skill. The four presentations

from Global Perspectives are very educational and thought provoking. We also have four presentations related to our health from Medical School updates, to culinary medicine, Genomics and Disability. As a special treat we have a special session with Amanda Meyer (a former student assistant) on her experiences as a Fulbright Scholar in Bulgaria. I offer a special Thank You

to Jim Burr, who has led the curriculum committee for over two years with wisdom, patience, and extraordinary coordinating skills. We are very excited that Dr. Jack McGuire has stepped up to the position of curriculum chair and I am very confident that our presentations will be in great hands.

**Sincerely,**

*Julian Meitin*  
President

# LIFE (Spring 2019) Curriculum Schedule

05

P: Pegasus Ballroom, SU 1st Floor  
 CF: Cape Florida Ballroom, SU 3rd Floor  
 KW: Key West Ballroom, SU 2nd Floor

Date	Time	Rm	Topic	Category	Presenter (Introduced by)
1/15	9:00AM	P	Sexuality and Aging: A Psychological Perspective		Dick Tucker(DT)
	10:30AM	P	Are We Planning Resilient Coastal Communities? Case Studies from Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina and Florida after Hurricane Irma"		Claire Knox (Ja.M)
1/22	9:00AM	P	Medical School Update		Dr. German (DM)
	10:30AM	P	Middle East: Fact, Fiction, and Culture		Don Losman PhD (Ju.M)
1/29	9:00AM	P	Learning Sciences		Dr. Charles Hughes (GA)
	10:30AM	P	History & Update on Lake Apopka: Floodplain Loss, Nutrient & Pesticide Pollution, and Multi-Year Droughts		Dr. Erich Marzolf (MC)
2/5	9:00AM	P	UCF Trombone Choir		Dr. Luis Fred (KB)
	10:30AM	P	Global Perspectives		(LC)
2/12	9:00AM	CF	Preview of Titanic the Musical		Prof. Michael Wainstein (Director of School of Performing Arts) (KB)
	10:30AM	CF	Global Perspectives		(LC)
2/19	9:00AM	CF	UCF Cello Studio		Prof. David Bjella (KB)
	10:30AM	CF	Global Perspectives		(LC)
2/26	9:00AM	P	UCF Flute Knights Ensemble		Dr. Nora Garcia (KB)
	10:30AM	P	Global Perspectives		(LC)
3/5	9:00AM	P	Excellence in Education		Charles Dziuban (Marcy)
	10:30AM	P	Cyber Security and Privacy		Dr. Yan Solihin (GA)
3/12	9:00AM	CF	Culinary Medicine		Dr. Jacque Nyenhuis (IK)
	10:30AM	CF	Exploring the Connections between Dali & Disney		Susan Lahey (Ja.M)
3/19	9:00AM	CF	Social Justice and Art		Melissa Geppert (KB)
	10:30AM	CF	News from Flatland: 2D [Two Dimensional] Materials for Catalysis		Talat Rahman (Ja. M)
3/26	9:00AM	P	Economics		Hank Fishkind (DT)
	10:30AM	P	UCF Veteran's Legacy		Dr. Amelia Lyons (LC)
4/2	9:00AM	P	Disability, Aging, and Technology		Dr. Norma Conner (GA)
	10:30AM	P	Adventures of a Fulbright Scholar in Bulgaria		Amanda Mayer (VBJ)
4/9	9:00AM	CF	Genomics and Bioinformatics		Dr. Yooseph (GA)
	10:30AM	CF	The History, Legend, and Routes of the Camino de Santiago		Luis Mendez (MC)
4/16	8:45AM	P	LIFE Showcase		

# PROUD TO BE A KNIGHT

by Ann  
Gardepe



[This piece was originally published in the Orlando Sentinel on June 29, 2018.]

The retirement this week of Dr. John C. Hitt, after 26 years as UCF's illustrious president, has me thinking about my own long-time connection to the university. I became a student in January, 1969, when it was Florida Technological University and graduated in the charter class of 1970. There were 3 buildings on campus and none were parking garages! With my degree in education I taught in Orange County Public Schools for 37 years, during which time I returned to the school, renamed the University of

Central Florida in 1978, to earn a master's degree. So, I have degrees from FTU and UCF; the same school!

My husband, John, attended classes to attain his Florida teaching certificate and later we celebrated our daughter's graduation from UCF.

John and I are now 5th year members of the Learning Institute for Elders known as LIFE at UCF---still students and still very proud of our knighthood. Looking back, it is amazing to see how far the university has come since its founding in 1963, thanks to the leadership of Dr. Charles Millican, Dr. Trevor Colburn and especially, Dr. John C. Hitt

whose vision and guidance have led to impressive heights in technology, medicine, sports, the arts and community involvement. We Knights are supremely grateful! We wish Dr. Dale Whittaker the best as he takes the helm and to you, Dr. Hitt, thank you and Godspeed! Charge on, UCF! Once a Knight, always a Knight!





# rain, snow, sleet, or hail:

07

UCF Football's history of delivering wins regardless of weather conditions

by Diane Wink

UCF football has achieved a wonderful record of wins, losses, and comebacks including conference championships and major bowl game wins, our blowout 2017 and 2018 seasons and a 25-game win streak. Just this year our football team won the War on I-4, AAC Eastern Division and AAC Conference Championships and, for the second time, played in the Fiesta Bowl which, sadly, we lost 40-32 to LSU.

Other than asking about wins and losses, a good way to get fans talking about football is to bring up the impact of weather, significant ever since UCF FB played its first Div III game September 9, 1979 at St. Leo's in pre-hurricane rain on a muddy puddle-filled field (not a stadium). UCF FB has a storied history of playing in blistering heat, numbing cold, and monsoon like rain such as the games against Texas, Mississippi State, SMU and Marshall.

September 15, 2007, the opening day for Bright House (now Spectrum) Stadium, dawned bright and warm. Tailgaters filled the campus with a sellout crowd of 45,622 UCF Knights and Texas Longhorns. Fans jumped to Zombie Nation and gave the stadium its Bounce House moniker.

Everything, including a close score putting UCF ahead in the 4th quarter was perfect, except it was HOT (91 F) which likely caused the brief game pause because of lightning.

Luckily, heat, lightning and sun are nothing to Knights. We know to apply sunscreen, wear a hat, seek cover from the lightning, which caused a brief game pause that day, use a fan, and drink lots and lots of water. Only problem was by the third quarter vendors ran out of water. Still not an issue, since most everyone had a bottle of some kind which could be refilled. The question became - where?? Turned out the stadium had NO water fountains because designers used a loophole in building

regulations which allowed their omission. The only way to get water was to hold your container under a restroom sink faucet which was angled to allow only half the bottle to fill. Luckily, the weather remained typically Floridian and a truly life-saving rain began and continued long enough to cool everyone off. Sadly, Texas did win the game 35 to 32. The other outcome was the installation of water fountains throughout the stadium concourse by game two the next weekend, at which time administrators from President Hitt down, manned entrance gates to give a bottle of water to every fan attending.

Move forward to December 27, 2007, that season's end, and UCF's Liberty Bowl game in Memphis against Mississippi State. The day dawned overcast and presented two major challenges. The first was clear during the pre-game tailgate held in a large shed near the stadium. As UCF fans arrived we were given a small plastic gold colored clicker topped with a star with UCF on it. UCF was announced and we stood and cheered and our clickers went "click, click, click". Then Mississippi State was announced and their fans stood and cheered and they pulled out their cow bells and proceeded to create a roar as deafening as it was annoying. The UCF clickers were not seen again.

Second, it was beyond cold... a 42 F high. UCF fans layered their sweaters - few had a true winter coat. Luckily, the stadium was full with 63,816 fans huddled together. For those looking for additional warmth, there were hot drinks but only until the third quarter when they ran out. (Maybe they learned how to stock the stadium for weather from UCF??) Most everyone remained standing which was better than sitting still on the cold seats. It did not help that there was not a lot of FB being played. Despite UCF having multiple award winning and soon to be NFL players

(e.g. Kevin Smith, Leger Douzable, Joe Burnett, and Michael Buscemi) neither UCF or Mississippi State could move the ball and there were 13 punts in just the first half and only 419 TOTAL yards in the game. The only scores were field goals by each team in the second quarter and a Mississippi State Touchdown and extra point right before the game ended. Regardless, there was also repeated ear splitting ringing of cow bells at even the smallest Mississippi State accomplishment - maybe to keep warm.

There was a much colder FB game December 7, 2013 when UCF defeated SMU 49-20 in a literally frozen (24 °F) stadium in Dallas. Was not a big stressor for fans since less than 1000 braved the ice storm to watch in person. With this win, UCF, led by quarterback Blake Bortles, became co-winner of the AAC conference championship and went on to win the Fiesta Bowl 52-42 over Baylor. But, no question, if you mention weather to any UCF FB fan, the thing they will ask is "Were you at the Marshall game?" On October 8, 2011 it was raining when fans work up, dressed for the game, ran to their cars and drove to the stadium. The monsoon like driving rain poured down for hours creating ponds on Memory Mall and turning roads into streams. The team took the field as 24,750 fans donned their rain ponchos and headed to their seats. At least one wore a swimming hat and goggles. But, if with a good rain poncho and if facing in the right direction, you could remain amazingly dry. Luckily the FB team DID show up for the game and literally ran on water. Quarterback Jeff Godfrey threw his first passing touchdown of the season to lead UCF to a 16-6 win. The 7-plus inches of rain made it the wettest October day in Orlando in 61 years. It was also the day Coach George O'Leary had his 100th career victory.

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### UCF Named a Top Supplier of Graduates to Aerospace, Defense Industries — Again

BY GENE KRUCKEMYER '73 | NOVEMBER 26, 2018

Aviation Week again recently named UCF the No. 1 supplier of graduates to the U.S. aerospace and defense industries – for the fourth consecutive year.

More than 4,000 students are currently enrolled in the university's Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering programs. There were 111 students who graduated last year with bachelor's and master's degrees in aerospace engineering, and more than 120 are expected to graduate this year.

More than 550 students have graduated with an aerospace engineering degree during the past five years.

“Orlando is the epicenter of rapid economic growth as more engineering companies begin calling it their home.” – Yoav Peles, UCF's Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering chair

“UCF's ranking as the top producer of talent for the aerospace and defense industries showcases,

one more time, the sustained partnership that UCF has established with the aerospace and defense industry to educate the next generation of engineers and computer scientists that this industry needs to perpetuate its continued dominance,” says Michael Georgiopoulos, dean of the College of Engineering and Computer Science.

Rounding out the Top 5 universities that have provided the most graduates to the industries are: University of Florida, University of Arizona, Pennsylvania State University and University of Washington. Yoav Peles, department chair, says UCF's graduates are working at some of the top engineering sites in the nation, such as Lockheed Martin, Siemens and the Kennedy Space Center.

“As one of the fastest-growing cities in the United States, Orlando is the epicenter of rapid economic growth as more engineering companies begin calling it their home,” he says, including other

companies such as Boeing, Pratt & Whitney, Mitsubishi, Harris and Disney.

UCF's newest engineering program, a doctorate in aerospace engineering, was recently approved and is accepting applications for the Fall 2019 semester. The department also offers a doctorate in mechanical engineering, and master's degrees in aerospace engineering, biomedical engineering and mechanical engineering.

Aviation Week collaborated with the Aerospace Industries Association, American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, and PwC on the annual study. UCF also has earned a Carnegie Classification of Highest Research Activity, and ranks among the nation's Top 25 U.S. public universities for the number of patents secured by the National Academy of Inventors.



# Around the world in one great LIFE: Mercia Mason-Eudim

09

15 years after Smyrna, which was also known by the name Gavur Izmir, a beautiful, cosmopolitan port on the Aegean Sea inhabited mostly by Greeks, Armenians, Jews and Levantines, was burned and changed into the new city of Izmir, Turkey; I was born. Gavur means infidel, another word for foreigners. Smyrna became Infidel Izmir, due to its vast diversity of its peoples who came to the area for many and varied reasons. The mood in our small corner of Turkey was quiet and reserved; the jasmine continued to bloom and to perfume the air, especially in the afternoon when we rode our bikes along the quay to see the sunsets. I lived in a Roman Catholic community where everybody was sort of related. We lived peacefully with another minority, the Sephardim, and a Muslim majority. I had a Turkish "beyaname;" sort of a green card that was renewed every five years, and an Italian passport.

Circa 1940 my father, who worked for the Socony Vacuum Oil Co. was transferred to Istanbul where we lived for two years; however, his Italian citizenship caused him to be laid off until the war was over. Turkey had remained neutral during the 2nd World War and we were fortunate, compared to the rest of Europe, not to have experienced the ordeal of those difficult years. My family was all Catholic up to the beginning of the 20th century, after which, mixed marriages took place. Now I have Greek Orthodox cousins in Salonika, three Turkish nieces in Izmir and two American sons with David Mason, a man from North Carolina who was stationed in Izmir with the Air Force. I have six grandchildren, four of them already in college. My eldest son, Mark, is a computer programmer and my younger son, Linc, a jeweler who is studying to become a computer man, too.

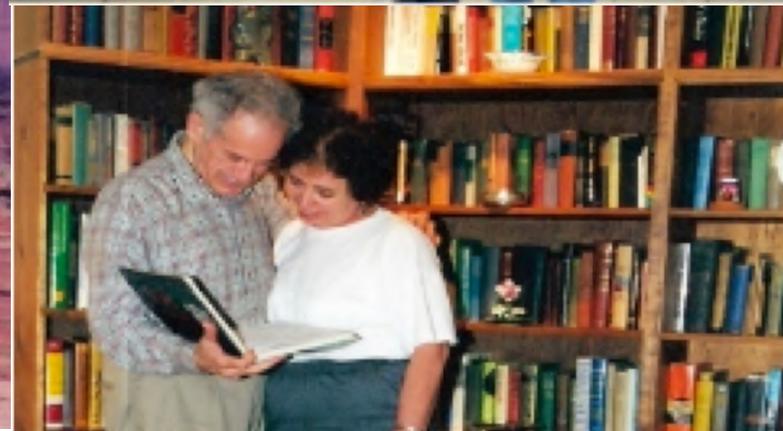
My elementary schooling took place at the Italian School of the Suore d'Ivrea where Italian, Turkish and French were taught. My parents still spoke Greek (fragoghiotika) at home. My secondary schooling was taught by a French nun, Soeur André, who was also a nurse at the French Hospital of Izmir. I went to the University of Central Florida for my BA and to the University of Florida for my Master of Arts. I feel that my biggest accomplishment was passing the French Baccalaureates (the national French academic high school tests) in Athens, Greece, after two years of studies by correspondence with a school in Vanves, Paris. Among my most enjoyable memories of my adolescence were trips I took to my mother's cousin's home, Matilda Nikiforaki, in Athens. Life was always so much more exciting there. My beautiful home town was quiet and peaceful, wonderful, in fact; however, in Athens there was stimulation and enjoyment that eclipsed the serenity of home and increased my spirit!

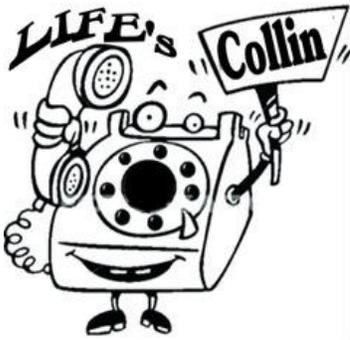
twenty-five years as a foreign language teacher in Orange County Public Schools, teaching mostly French and also, for a short time, Italian. During my teaching years at Evans High School, four students from UCF interned with me. I have been retired since December 1998. At the end of the school year in 1997, after a lunch with a friend, I picked up and perused a magazine she had left at our table; Orlando Weekly. I saw an ad from a gentleman who enjoyed many of the same things I did. Being the modern woman, I was I gave his number a call... and so goes the story of how I met my second husband Bernard, a man

born in the Bronx, NYC. He was a successful businessman, and is an accomplished intellectual who reads profusely. He took me to incredible locations around the world, in the names of both work and vacation. Together, we went to San Francisco, Yosemite Park, New York City, Death Valley, China, Venice, Canada, and Tanglewood, MA. After seven years we were married, and then we learned Bernard needed open-heart surgery. After research of great surgeons, we decided on a hospital in Cleveland, Ohio. Always one to make the best of every moment, Bernard decided that since we were so close to Niagara Falls, we should take the opportunity to take a drive to

see the falls before checking into the Cleveland Clinic. We both still strive to maintain that fun lifestyle and are energized to belong to an organization where American seniors have a positive outlook and endeavor to live life to its fullest.

We are both delighted to be members of LIFE at UCF!





According to the website selfgrowth.com, "Lifelong learning is the continued educational experience that utilizes non-credit academic courses, educational travel, and community service and volunteerism to fully engage the brain, heighten physical activity, and maintain healthy social relationships." One of the unique aspects of LIFE@UCF is our partnership with the university. I

went to a lifelong learning conference over the summer and had the opportunity to learn from many successful programs throughout the southeast. LIFE@UCF is unique in many ways, but especially with our partnership with UCF and the ability of our members to be a part of campus life. I know that parking is often a problem but the benefits of being a part of this vibrant campus is what truly makes LIFE@UCF unique. In January, LIFE@UCF will begin a new partnership with the Burnett Honors College! Information on two

new programs can be found in this newsletter. This is just one of the new and exciting activities that LIFE has planned for the spring. The board and staff of LIFE@UCF is committed to providing our members with a vibrant program that addresses the benefits of a lifelong learning experience. We try our best to provide interesting programming and opportunities for travel and volunteerism. The input and involvement from our membership is vital to our continued success.

As we enter a new year, I hope you will continue to let us know how we are doing and I encourage you to take advantage of the wonderful opportunities available for you on campus. Happy New Year!

sincerely,

*Leslie Collin*

LIFE Program  
Coordinator

## ? did you know?

LIFE@UCF provides a small honorarium of \$100 for each presentation. If there are multiple speakers for a single presentation, the honorarium is still only \$100. Often individuals turn the honorarium down or ask that the honorarium be given to a not for profit agency, a charity, a student scholarship fund or returned to LIFE@UCF. There are some speakers who cannot accept an honorarium such as speakers representing the military, the city of Orlando, or county and state officials. Unless you have been a member of the Curriculum Committee, one does not realize the

amount of time and effort involved in securing a speaker. The process starts in the monthly curriculum committee when members of the committee identify topics and potential speakers. Then a committee member agrees to contact the speaker and line up a date. This can take several emails and phone calls. The LIFE@UCF curriculum committee member then checks back with the Committee Chair to make sure the date is still available and topic is appropriate. Once the speaker and topic are approved, the Curriculum person writes a letter to the potential speaker

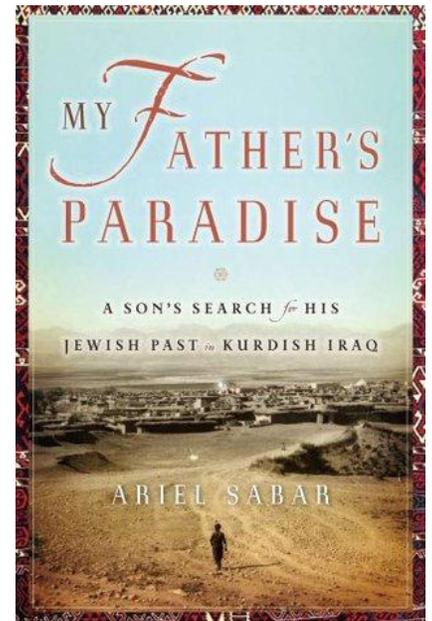
confirming the date, time and room of the presentation as well as the title of the presentation. The letter also informs the future speaker, who the audience is, the format and the AV capabilities. Usually speakers are lined up 4-6 months in advance. The curriculum contact stays in touch with the presenter to insure he/she is still available. When the date of the presentation is close, the curriculum person completes the Honorarium Request Form, asks for a resume and some background on the presentation for the e-blast. The LIFE

curriculum person then develops the e-blast and sends the Honorarium Request Form to the Treasurer. On the day of the presentation the curriculum person usually welcomes the speaker and helps him/her get set-up and introduces him/her to Steve Hall who assists with the audio visual for the presentation. The Curriculum person introduces the speaker and he/she gives the honorarium to the speaker or insures that it is sent to the appropriate agency or fund. The above process is followed and usually runs smoothly unless the speaker cancels or there is an unforeseen emergency. Then the Curriculum contact works with the Chair of the Curriculum Committee to identify another speaker.

# LIFE/Honors Book Club

Join some of the most ambitious and creative undergraduates in the Burnett Honors College for reading and discussion of Ariel Sabar's memoir, *My Father's Paradise: A Son's Search for His Family's Past* (2009), as part of the Honors College's "Windows to the World" course. Sabar recounts his father's exile from a Jewish enclave in Iraq and his own journey to rediscover his family's ancient, fragmentary heritage. The book's intergenerational and international aspects make it ideal for a vibrant

conversation among Honors students and LIFE members. Dr. Tyler Fisher, who teaches the course, graduated from UCF in 2003 and spent the past 15 years studying and teaching at the University of Oxford, England, before returning to UCF as a professor of Modern Languages and Literatures in August 2018. He inherits "Windows to the World" from Dr. Alvin Wang, and hopes to carry on the course's vital links with LIFE as a means for enhancing students' perspectives and preparedness for active,



lifelong learning. Dr. Fisher is UCF's first Rhodes Scholar. Book club will meet Thursday January 31st; Thursday, March 21st and Thursday, April 11th from 3:00 – 4:15 in Trevor Colbourn Hall 108 (TCH 108). A sign-up sheet will be sent in early January.



5 students were presented a \$400 Barnes and Noble gift card from LIFE Program Coordinator, Leslie Collin. From left to right Ricardo Lopez, Roberto Green, Melissa Hebel, me and Krishna Singh; missing Silva Vitale, and Kelly Vo.