The LIFE Times
October 2018

LIFE at UCF

In this month's issue...

- GAB & Inspired LIFE Charge On: A word from our LIFE President
- LIFE out loud & Knights Helping Knights Food Pantry
- A Wink on LIFE
- Legacy Pointe & Benefits Byte
- Field Trip Follies
- spotLIFE on Sharon, Jack & the Emerald Isle
- LIFE's Collin & Did You Know?
- Toys for Tots & Experiential Learning
- Trivia Tangle
Now that the new LIFE year is underway, you’ve had a few weeks to check out all the perks of being a LIFE member and continue to get excited for the sessions that our Curriculum Committee has scheduled! We have other things to be excited about as well, Deb Barton and Jayne Leach have organized a food drive, October 30, for the Knights Pantry and Kim Bowers is working hard to make our Toys for Tots the best ever! Look for their updates in this month’s issue.

As always, we have an incredible spotLIFE this month. The popularity of this article has been amazing and we welcome and encourage you to tell your story! Although we have heard from her in the past, Diane Wink has agreed to be a permanent monthly contributor. Her fun UCF stories make me smile, and sometimes laugh out loud, every time! Leslie Collin, LIFE Program Coordinator, will be updating us on pertinent LIFE happenings and will also be writing for us each month.

It doesn’t have to be monthly...although we would love it.... should you wish to write an article or blurb...or a “funny” (thanks to Sam Shutt for this month’s LOL), that our membership would find interesting, please, don’t hesitate to email me. Alli and I are also available for a face-to-face at the Welcome Desk every Tuesday morning.

Enjoy this month’s issue!

Gail

Election Day is November 6th!

BAD OFFICIALS are elected by good citizens who do NOT VOTE.
~George Jean Nathan
Welcome back to classes, fellow lifelong learners. At this writing the first two weeks have gone very well and we like the new set up of the back rows suggested by Leslie Collin. Sometimes it takes a new viewpoint to suggest a row setup and ease of seating that our old eyes have missed over the years.

The Curriculum Committee has done very well under Gene Aiello and is moving forward to finish spring 2019, and on to the next summer session and fall 2019. Due to unseen circumstances, he has had to step down, and we are now back under the capable chairmanship of Jim Burr; but we need a new chairperson, as we have worked Jim for too long. We shall make a concerted effort to relieve him ASAP to keep him fresh for other efforts.

Of interest are two important appointments from your President: V.P. Todd Bowers, Program Coordinator Leslie Collin, and Dr. Wayne Bowen (our UCF Liaison and faculty sponsor). First, we shall meet with the new interim UCF Provost Dooley on the use of faculty members to follow up on an outreach program initiated by Gene Aiello with the Deans of departments. We all realize that our class lectures are improved by faculty excellence and we provide them to an interested audience. We are looking for improved faculty relationships and a larger variety of colleges. We shall be visiting with our new UCF President Dr. Whittaker. It is important to us to get on his radar as an important senior community of 800 strong that present an area of much goodwill in the Central Florida community for the University. Our partnership with UCF is not just a ballroom to hold our classes. Our membership presents a willing group for important scientific research, as well as a substantial source of grants that help the faculty. We contribute half of our net fund into university grants.

Please, introduce yourself each week to a new member, for we have 200 new members. Make them feel welcome. We are a self-run educational program and I remind you that new and fresh volunteers are the lifeblood of our organization. Please, at any time, call on me or any of the Board with your ideas and suggestions.

Sincerely,

Julian Meitin
President
Classes in movie theater get good reviews

by Jim Knepper

Students have begun seeing their classes in University Cinema II. The theater provides a unique atmosphere for students.

Approximately 1,200 students are enrolled in classes at the theater. With increased enrollment, it allows students for expanded role requirements. The students, biology, science, arts, and science, and most classes for majors in science, education, and various other disciplines.

"It really has expanded our options," said an instructor.

Students agreed.

"The classrooms are spacious and comfortable," said another instructor. The theater provides a unique atmosphere for students.

Several students are enjoying the new arrangement.
At one time, UCF was said to mean “You Can’t Finish” because there were not enough classes or classrooms for the growing student population. A creative approach to the classroom shortage was taken thanks to an idea of Dick Tucker, long time UCF faculty member and one of the founders of LIFE@UCF. While waiting to pick up his lunch pizza from Kelsey’s, a restaurant at the then strip mall across Alafaya from UCF (now the location of the Plaza on University student housing complex) he saw someone going into the multiplex theater housed there. As Dick tells it: “I went over and asked them if they always opened after 12 PM, which basically was asking whether they used the theater before that time. When the attendant said “yes”, I suddenly realized that there was a possibility of UCF renting 6 relatively large classrooms in the morning . . . I went over to the administration building and mentioned it to Dr. Stuart Lilie who was then involved with Undergrad Education. My only request was that one “classroom” had to be reserved for the LIFE program on Tuesday and Thursday mornings and they readily agreed. “Thus, in the Fall of 1992, University Cinema 6 became a part time UCF classroom building with classes for 2,200 students that semester. Each of the six theaters were equipped with a screen plus mikes, marker-boards, overhead projectors and VCRs. For students needing breakfast or a snack, the concession stand was open and selling theater food at theater prices. Teaching and learning in cinema “classrooms” was a unique experience but the environment worked. There were plenty of seats to go around and they were nice and soft, something the students appreciated. Since there were no desktops, stacks of lap boards for students to use and return after class graced each theater entrance. The coming attraction posters contributed to the quirky nature of the setting, like when signs for the film "Dumb and Dumber" were up. No reflection on the students (or faculty). But, like on campus, parking was a problem. There were limited spaces especially after many spots needed by customers of the stores were made off limits for students. A shuttle was available – priced at 25 cents a ride. Test days were great for faculty since it was possible to space students far apart. However, test takers did have to deal with thudding of seats each time someone finished their exam and got up to leave the room. But this was nothing compared to the quick response needed when a supersized cup of soda placed on the floor (no theater cup holders yet) tipped over. This mandated a warning yell so those in seats further up could lift their bags and feet off the floor before the stream of cola flowing to the front of the "classroom” passed their seat. Classes, including those of LIFE@UCF, were held in the UCF Cinema’s theaters for many years.
Me: I was doing an overnight at a hotel away from home. I took my computer down to the bar to do some data entries.

I sat down at the bar and I asked the bartender, “What’s the wifi password?”
Bartender: “You need to buy a drink first.”
Me: “Okay, I’ll have a beer.”
Bartender: “We have Molson’s Canadian on tap.”

Me: “Sure. How much is that?”
Bartender: “$8.00.”
Me: “Here you are. OK, now, what’s the wifi password?”
Bartender: "youneedtobuyadrinkfirst"; No spaces and all lowercase.

Knights Helping Knights

Food Pantry
Twice a year, Fall and Spring, LIFE holds a food drive to support the Knights Helping Knights Pantry. October 30th is the date of the Fall Drive. Hunger on college campuses is a national issue. UCF is no different. Many students are "food insecure". They worry about having enough money to buy food. The Knights Helping Knights Pantry helps UCF students by providing food and toiletries complimentary, daily, Monday thru Friday. Using their student ID, students can pick up 5 items, daily. There is a microwave at the Pantry to let students warm up their food. We ask you to bring in:
Food: Single serve complete food bowls. Individual serving cereal boxes. Canned fruit. Personal hygiene items
Laundry detergent pods
Professional clothing for interviews
Monetary donations/checks are always welcome. A donation enables the Pantry to purchase items needed to supplement their inventory. You will receive a receipt from UCF.
Last Spring we collected $786 in monetary donations and 255 pounds of food. We will inform you of the drop off locations when we get closer to October 30th. Committee chairs Jayne Leach and Debbie Barton thank you in advance for participating.
coming soon

Legacy Pointe at UCF, Central Florida’s Premier Retirement Community scheduled to open mid-2020, is now accepting registrations for future residency. A number of LIFE at UCF members have already reserved their future home at this one of a kind retirement community to be developed within walking distance of the UCF Campus. LIFE members will have an exclusive opportunity to learn more about Legacy Pointe at 2 upcoming luncheon seminars to be held at the Legacy Pointe Information Center on Tuesday, October 9 (following the LIFE session) and Thursday, October 11. Space is limited so be on the lookout for sign up opportunities at an upcoming LIFE class.

If you’d like to know more about Legacy Pointe in the meantime, visit their webpage at www.legacypointeatucf.com.

❗ benefits byte

LIFE membership offers MANY MANY benefits…. Universal and Disney are NOT included!

Most LIFE members do not realize that all regular students at UCF pay an activity fee that is calculated at $11.67 per credit hour! A full-time student takes 12-15 credits each semester which totals, $140.04-$175.05 ($280.08-$350.10 annually). These fees are “used to fund activities and services that benefit the general student body.” Although LIFE members are considered UCF Students, we do NOT pay these additional fees to the university. It is true that the UCF ticket office offers discounts to various theme parks to students.

LIFE members have commented that we are unable to purchase theme park tickets for a discount. TRUE! These tickets are for UCF students who have paid the Activity Fee. Additionally, each student is restricted as to the number of tickets he/she can purchase. An appeal from any LIFE member to a fee-paying student is an unethical request. In the words of cartoon character G.I Joe, “Knowing is half the battle!”
Field Trip Follies

LIFE is a volunteer driven organization. LIFE can sponsor activities, but only if members are available to lead or co-lead. Would you like to participate in more LIFE activities? LIFE includes 800 members. In such a group we have many people with similar interests and activities. Currently, we have Experiential trips that provide a venue per month to which LIFE members can visit. As Experiential Trip chair, I am in need of two additional members to assist me. LIFE trips require an Experiential Trip committee member or board member to lead the group. Benefit to leader: when the venue has a cost, the cost for the tour leader is paid.

If it is free, then the leader gets a definite spot on the tour. With additional committee members, alternate leaders will be possible. Also, I would like to propose two additional LIFE sponsored activities and am looking for LIFE members who are willing to lead or co-lead these groups.

1. LIFE Book club – meetings could be monthly during our class schedule of September to May or the frequency determined by the group interested. The book would be determined by the group. Leslie Collin in the LIFE office can help coordinate locations in the community or to see if this club could meet on campus.

Depending on the group members, it may be more convenient to meet at a lunch place rather than the campus.

2. LIFE Exercise program – It has been noted that some LIFE members walk on campus before class or during the break between the two lectures on Tuesday. Most LIFE members probably do not even realize that this is an opportunity. The walk path and time would be determined by the group.

Please let me know if you are interested in any of the three opportunities above:

1. Experiential Trip committee
2. LIFE Book Club
3. LIFE Exercise Club

Thank you for your interest in LIFE activities.

-Marie Ruckstuhl
In June, Sharon and I celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary by taking our entire family to Ireland. The 1-week tour included a private 18 passenger coach and a tour guide/driver. Additional tour guides met us at scheduled cities and special sites. After the family tour, Sharon and I rented a car and spent six additional days, staying in B&Bs and exploring a number of places we had never visited before, primarily in Northern Ireland. Family day one included a city tour of Dublin. Our tour guide spontaneously stopped at a park which she thought the kids would enjoy... “The Giant’s Garden” [Gairdin an Fhathaigh]. Our grandchildren, especially the young ones, 4 and 5 years old, really loved it as it had large carved figures of “Giants” on which they could climb! This park just also happened to be the place where one of our daughters got engaged 17 years ago. Our son-in-law proposed while they were sitting on a bench in the park. Our other daughter took a picture of her sister and husband sitting on that same bench. That day we also visited Trinity College and saw the “Book of Kells” and lots more. That first night we went to a restaurant [Taylors 3 Rock Pub] where they had a wonderful Irish singing group as well as a group of Irish Dancers...a wonderful first day. Day two we drove through the country passing the “Rock of Cashel” site and stopped overlooking a beautiful lake where the tour company took a picture of our entire family. We then visited a country farm where we enjoyed tea and scones in the family’s living room and were then treated to a demonstration of sheep herding by a phenomenal sheep dog. Next day we were off to “Blarney Castle” where all 3 of our children and two of their spouses kissed the Blarney Stone.

Sharon and I had been there 25 years ago when we did our “kissing.” An incredible adventure. We spent the night in Killarney and most of us were able to get out into town and enjoy local Irish musicians in a couple of pubs.... Guinness was enjoyed! Next, we spent an entire day visiting the town of Dingle. We walked the town and had a wonderful boat trip around Dingle Bay where we got to see “Fungi,” a dolphin that came into the bay 20 years ago and has never left. Fungi loves to swim alongside the tour boats out in the bay...everyone really enjoyed this incredible tour. After the boat, our bus took us on a beautiful trip around Dingle bay. Next day we all took horse drawn carriage rides [“Jaunting Car Rides”], we rode through a national park ending at “Ross Castle,” the ancestral home of the O’Donoghue Chieftains, built in the early 1400s. We visited St. John’s Castle in Limerick and had an incredible time enjoying
a Medieval Banquet at “Bunratty Castle.” The men and ladies who served the tables were dressed in Medieval Costume and entertained us before and during dinner, they were outstanding singers and musicians. We traveled to the “Cliffs of Moher” a wondrous experience for all of our children and grandchildren...a natural wonder of incredibly steep and beautiful cliffs overlooking the ocean hundreds of feet below us. Our final family tour days included a walking city tour of Galway and a visit to the Irish National Stud Farm, which produces all the racing horses in Ireland. We were able to touch several former race horses. The farm also had an extensive and beautiful Japanese Garden. When the family tour was completed, Sharon and I took off on our own little trip. We first visited two Neolithic Burial Passage Mound sites in the Boyne Valley that were over 5000 years old; incredibly moving and beautiful. We got to go into the mound at Newgrange through a narrow stone passageway ending in the middle of the mound....there on the 8 days surrounding the winter solstice, the sun gradually enters the passage until it lights up the central area...they simulated this by turning out the lights [very scary] and then had a light gradually move through the passage to our small group huddled around the central area. We drove to Ballymahon, County Longford, the ancestral home of my maternal grandfather’s family. We walked the town, had a nice pub lunch and visited the old cemetery where I took some pictures of headstones of some ancestors. We headed into Northern Ireland with a stop in Enniskellen. We toured Enniskellen Castle, also known as “Maguire Castle,” as it is the ancestral home of the Maguire clan. There was a wonderful museum that was part of this experience. We drove to the northern tip of Ireland for an absolutely incredible day of hiking on the “Giant’s Causeway,” a wondrous geologic site of octagonal stone pillars that extend all over the landscape and out into the ocean. Difficult to describe [I have wonderful pictures of it]. There is, of course, an Irish legend surrounding the “Causeway” involving a young Irish man and a Giant who lived across the ocean on the nearby coast of Scotland. Our last two days were spent in Belfast where we did a “hop on-hop off” bus tour and learned all about the “troubles” in Belfast between the Loyalists [those who wanted British rule] and the Unionists who want a United Ireland. We spent a lot of time at the Titanic Museum which is located adjacent to the area where the Titanic was built...this is a must do if you go to Belfast! Finally, we toured the Ulster Museum...a wonderful day of incredible history of Ireland and included a breathtaking exhibition of a Tapestry woven to include panels covering the entire “Game of Thrones” story. This was a trip that we will never forget and I hope all of our family will remember for the rest of their lives.
What a great start to our new year! Our curriculum committee has put together a great variety of interesting topics. Please check the website and look for our weekly email blasts for the most up-to-date information.

We occasionally must move our session to the Cape Florida room located on the 3rd floor of the Student Union. Please remember that on these days, members cannot bring a guest!

During a break in one of our sessions, I had the opportunity to talk with one of LIFE’s Student Assistants, Alli, (you probably see her counting seats and running around with a microphone). Alli is currently in her senior year. This semester, she is taking 12 credit hours; works 10 hours a week for LIFE and she also has a leadership position at the Honors College.

She has been involved with numerous organizations while at UCF. As I listen to the announcements before our classes begin, I can’t help but think about the amazing opportunity LIFE members have to be a part of the UCF community. You don’t have to just be a Tuesday student! Art, music, theatre and so much more are available to you every day of the week. Research opportunities are updated on our website as well as announced in the morning. For UCF events, you can also go to events.ucf.edu for more information.

Take advantage of the additional educational opportunities your LIFE membership provides!

Special thank you to our curriculum committee and membership committee for all their hard work in getting everything ready for our new year! If you are looking to get involved on one of our LIFE committees, come see me after class or during the break or you can email me directly at Leslie.Collin@ucf.

sincerely,
Leslie Collin
LIFE Program Coordinator

did you know?

There is much information to be found at our LIFE website: life.ucf.edu

• Class schedules
• The LIFETimes... in COLOR!
• Signups for Experiential Learning (field trips)
• Research Opportunities
• Pegasus Shuttle information
• AND MUCH MORE!
Dear LIFE Members,  
You may not be thinking about Christmas yet, but I bet there are lots of children in Central Florida who are already dreaming about a “red truck”. Our annual Toys For Tots drive in association with the UCF Police Department and the United States Marine Corps has been scheduled.  
On November 6, we will speak to everyone during the announcements giving details and motivation for our LIFE drive. On November 13, we would like everyone to bring as many new, unwrapped, toys to class as your heart desires.  
On November 20, we will still collect toys if someone forgot or missed November 13. Did you know that on December 20 of last year, our Marines flew two flights of huge cargo planes to Puerto Rico, delivering over 30,000 toys, books, and games to the children of that hurricane devastated island. I would like to think that among those 30,000 toys were some of our hundreds and hundreds of toys that you all donated last year, and that somewhere in there was a bright “red truck”!

Kim Bowers

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experiential learning

UCF athletic programs have achieved great success over the last few years with championships in football, soccer and rowing to name a few. Members of LIFE@UCF were able to see some of the facilities which contribute to these successes during an Experiential Learning Tour. First stop was the brand new Garvey Center for Student-Athlete Nutrition located in the area which was once the football recruiting lounge. This facility, filled with tables and chairs as well as couches, is for all 435 +/- student athletes. It has a menu focused on high quality meals and snacks. Next stop was the football locker room where LIFE@UCF members could see the game-day uniform alcoves - one for each player, and varied support areas including separate dressing rooms for the coaches. A walk though the ground floor concourse was followed by a quick elevator ride to the 3rd floor Tower Club, one of several premium seating areas at the stadium. Everyone got to check out the varied seating options and go outside to see the beautiful views of the field, stadium and nearby neighborhoods. A quick stop at the lower level of the Carl Black and Gold Cabana section was the last stop before going to the baseball stadium. John Euliano Baseball Park and Jay Bergman Field were explored from both the concourse level and the new upper level baseball club. There were great views of the field and dugouts from both locations.
ACROSS

3. Jack & Sharon McGuire spent their 50th anniversary with family in what European country?
4. What date is the Knights Helping Knights food drive?
5. Easy one: What month do Americans go to the polls?
7. What is the name of the baseball field that LIFE members recently saw on a tour of our athletic facilities?
8. Which LIFE member provided this month’s LOL (LIFE Out Loud)?

DOWN

1. What is the name of Central Florida’s new retirement community, due to open in 2020?
2. Where can the LIFETimes be viewed in living color?
6. True or False? LIFE members do not pay the Activity & Service fee that UCF students pay.

ANSWERS

Ireland; November 3 and 20
November: Legacy Pointe;
LIFE website; Sam Shultz;
Experiential learning;
John: October 30; True!