

# The LIFE Times



NOVEMBER 2017

official publication  
of the Learning  
Institute For  
Elders at UCF



## MAD SCIENCE

upcoming field trip  
opportunity, p. 04

## PHILANTHROPY SAM

LIFE student assistant  
does it all for the kids,  
p.05

## LAUGH & LEARN

our wisdom & humor  
for the month, p. 07  
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# *the gab*

*[with Gail Agor]*

Happy November and Happy Thanksgiving! I'm excited to be the editor of LIFE Times and hope to try out new things in our monthly newsletter. Some will work, others might not and we will adjust accordingly. Besides the usual offerings I hope our members will find something for everyone, whether it be a monthly chuckle, an inspirational story, a brainteaser, volunteer opportunities with one of our many LIFE committees, or UCF information about athletic victories, concerts or shows, Alli and I want to hear from YOU, our LIFE members. We can be contacted in person, at the Welcome table set up outside of our lecture space every Tuesday or through email. Our goal is to make this a paper that you look forward to reading. Remember, the newsletter can be read online at <https://life.ucf.edu>.

To paraphrase our speaker, Dr. Florian Jentsch, from October 24, "the last step in Team Building/Newsletter creation is to monitor, evaluate and improve!"



03

LIFE

wisdom

## inspiration for November: "shake off the problems"

A man's favorite donkey fell into a deep precipice. He couldn't pull the animal out no matter how hard he tried. The man decided to bury the poor creature, alive.

Soil was poured onto the donkey from above. The donkey felt the load, shook it off, and stepped on the dirt. More soil was poured.

After shaking it off, the beast, again, stood on the dirt. The more soil that was poured, the higher the ground, and the donkey, rose. By noon, the donkey was grazing in green pastures.

**Moral:**

After much shaking off (problems) and stepping up (learning from them), one will graze in GREEN PASTURES.

# FIELD TRIP: SCIENCE SOJOURN



**Parking:** on your own. Parking is available in a covered parking garage across Princeton Avenue from the Science Center for \$5 per vehicle, paid individually at the garage. There is a covered walkway to the Science Center on Level 2. Elevator is available if you park on another level.

**Cost** for docent led tour for a LIFE member is \$20 and includes Tip.

**Sign up and payment** will be via PayPal.

Prices are pre-paid, non-refundable payments unless the member or coordinator can find a replacement and member notifies the coordinator at least 3 days before the event.

**REMEMBER:** Check the LIFE website at: <https://life.ucf.edu> for all field trip information!

## LATE BREAKING: an opportunity of global proportions

LIFE is sponsoring a field trip to I/ITSEC, the world's largest modeling, simulation and training conference, at the Orlando Convention Center on Wednesday, November 29, 8AM-1PM.

Stop by the Welcome Desk to sign-up and details.

Friday, January 19, 2018 - tour begins at 1:30 PM and will be about 1.5 to 2 hours long. Those who are attending should be at admission desk at 1:20PM. We must enter as a group in order to get the group rate.

After the tour, you may attend a movie or go back to see more of the exhibits. Check the web site for offerings that day. For refreshments, visit the Subway restaurant on the ground floor of the Science Center. Regular exhibits and Subway are open until 5PM.

**NOTE:** On Fridays, the Digital Adventure Theater and the Crosby Observatory (weather permitting) are open from 5P - 9PM.

The building is ADA friendly, there are elevators as well as seating in theaters available.

You may want to bring a sweater or light jacket for the shows.





# I do love LIFE, Sam- I-am!

**Meet LIFE's newest student assistant, Samantha Davis!**

With the departure of Amanda and Anna last year, LIFE found itself in need of a new Student Assistant. ...enter Samantha Davis! Sam came to us just as we were beginning our new semester of lectures.

Lucky LIFE! Sam is a new freshman at UCF and hales from a tiny town in Illinois; Mascouta, which is about 30 minutes outside of St. Louis. As an Entertainment Management major, UCF received the nod for her studies since the Rosen College of Hospitality Management is ranked as the second-best hospitality school in the world! Sam hopes that her degree will advance her towards a career in Venue Management and Guest Services for large concert venues and would like to begin that goal quest in the northeast, preferably in New York City where she can work towards her ultimate dream job of becoming the House Manager at Madison Square Garden!

Meanwhile, LIFE duties are keeping Sam busy. Every Tuesday morning you can see her at the Welcome desk where she not only smilingly greets LIFE members and counts attendees, but as a facilitator for the question and answer segment at the conclusion of each lecture, running from person to person with her microphone.

Additionally, Sam works with the Curriculum Committee as they strive to secure interesting lectures weekly! Sam not only takes notes at the Curriculum Committee meetings, she has made a box for the Welcome table to encourage suggestions from our membership as to subjects for which they would be interested in seeing the committee pursue. Come with your ideas and fill that box! Since we only have Sam for 10 hours a week, it is fortunate that she is incredibly tech savvy, especially when, as happened recently, she received 16 emails in less than an hour, all of which needed her attention "immediately." I'm pleased to say, she rose, magnificently, to the occasion! This amazing young lady fills her other hours with coursework that she takes in conjunction with her participation in the UCF Burnett Honors College, and where she is also a Team Leader!

Add to that her work with the Rosen Peer Outreach Mentoring Program and the LEAD Scholars Academy and you would think that she has time for nothing else; but no...Sam is a very active volunteer for a few nonprofits at UCF, the principal being Knight-Thon which is the largest student-run philanthropy at the university. All throughout the year the group raises money to support the children and needs of Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children (APH), our local Children's Miracle Network Hospital. Each year, APH treats 136,000 children with various injuries and illnesses. APH has the only Pediatric Emergency Room and Level One Trauma Center in Central Florida. It also has one of the largest and most advanced NICUs in the country. In the spring, Knight-Thon dancers stand for 22 hours straight in solidarity with the children fighting for their lives 24/7. Last year, Knight-Thon raised \$1.25 million and are looking to increase that goal as much as possible.

Samantha's personal goal is to raise \$1,750 for the kids. She says, "one of the ways I am working to reach that goal is by 'bucketing,' which is asking for donations in the bright purple bucket that you can always find me holding in the LIFE Lobby on Tuesday mornings!"

In her "spare time," (Really? She has some?) Sam loves musical theater and watching movies. She also enjoys exploring Orlando with its many attractions that make us the Tourism Capital of the World. She has discovered the lively fun at Disney Springs as well as the outstanding locations where she can go for day hikes!

Samantha attributes her ability to fulfill all her classes, work, volunteerism and leisure activities with her organized habit of keeping a planner; something she says she is NEVER without! She loves to manage her time effectively and organizes her schedule, keeping her on track. It can only be surmised that Sam's planner must be HUGE!

If you have a technology question stop by and ask Sam. You'll find her at the Welcome desk every Tuesday, with her bright purple bucket and brighter smile! No questions? Stop by and say, "Hi," and get to know her better!

LIFE welcomes this wonderful young woman at the same time we marvel that we are fortunate to have her cheery personality and many-faceted abilities!

**1.25 million:**  
**amount raised by**  
**Knight-Thon last**  
**year**

**136,000:**  
**number of children**  
**treated at APH**  
**annually**

**22:**  
**number of hours**  
**Knight-Thon**  
**dancers**  
**stand**

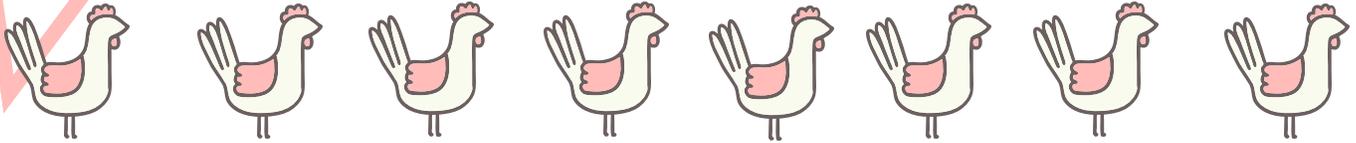
**1,750:**  
**Sam's personal**  
**fundraising goal**  
**this year**

# L.O.L: LIFE Out Loud

This edition's humor comes from our own Student Assistant, Samantha Davis.

Q: Why do chicken coops only have two doors?

A: If they had four, they'd be chicken sedans!



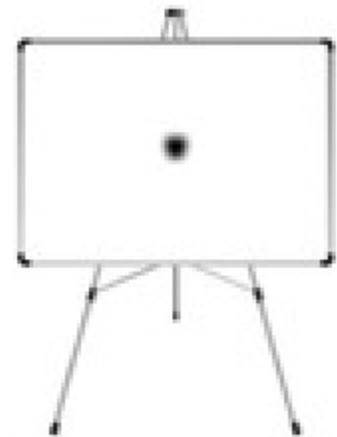
*"Discovery consists of looking at the same thing as everyone else and thinking something different." -Albert Szent-Gyorgyi*

**Mind  
STRETCH  
for LIFE**

How many of you read and/or paid attention to last month's Mind Stretch? I know some of you did because I heard back from a few of you with answers to "name something red." I've picked a few of the answers I found most creative/thought provoking... Dorothy's shoes, scraped knees, Snow White's lips, dry eyes...there were more. Thanks for your input and for playing along!

This month's Mind Stretch is something I used to do with my Intellectually Gifted students. I put a chalk dot on the blackboard/whiteboard and asked, "What is this?"

Send in your answers to [agorgail@gmail.com](mailto:agorgail@gmail.com), or stop by the Welcome table and give your answers to Alli or me!



## LIFE @ UCF BOARD MEETING

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2017  
DEAN'S CONFERENCE ROOM, PSYCHOLOGY BUILDING

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by President, Julian Meltin. Member excused was Jack McGuire; Ray Jones attended as a guest.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Ann Barretta, and it was noted that there are still a few outstanding checks from the past year that have not been cashed, and that we are in good financial shape. All Board members were asked to sign our conflict of interest policy. It was noted that Ray Jones has been appointed to coordinate a financial review of the books, per our policy.

The Secretary noted that the complete minutes of the October board meeting will be re-distributed as they had not reached all members in the past month due to her absence during the meeting.

Vice President Lee Cross gave a comprehensive report of the grant categories that will be included in this year's grants, and noted that there will be some changes as some departments have changed their relationship with the LIFE program. Motion was made by Bradbury that the amount dedicated to all grants stay the same as the previous year. Seconded, motion passed. It was noted that bylaw changes need to be approved by the entire body of LIFE at a general meeting, and this will take place at the next Annual meeting of the organization.

President Meitin reported on the success of the Diversity Breakfast. He also noted that the LIFE Safety Committee will coordinate with the Student Union regulations, and any important additions or changes to our policies will be distributed to our membership. The proposal for archiving or streaming LIFE presentations has been researched and the various options vs. the expenses will continue to be explored.

A coordinator for the LIFE yearly meeting/celebration at the end of the year was requested, and Vonnie Bradbury offered to help move this project forward. It was noted that we need a nominating Committee Chair who is familiar with the talents and assets of individual members to propose a slate for the coming year.

Dick Tucker, UCF Liaison, noted that he has expanding time limitations for fulfilling that position, and suggested that Wayne Bowen, UCF Academic Sponsor, fill the Liaison position moving forward. Bradbury moved that the duties of the UCF Liaison position move to the Academic Sponsor, motion seconded and passed.

Wayne Bowen distributed a survey on Continuing Education from the office of the provost that could be electronically offered to LIFE members. It was accepted that this be done.

Jim Burr, Curriculum Committee chair, noted that the spring semester curriculum is nearly complete, and looks very interesting. Tim Matthews noted that several Grant Applications have been received.

Tim Matthews noted that quite a few members have not 'checked in' yet, but membership is strong, and there are still about 350 names on the waiting list.

Thanks were given to Gail Agor who will edit the member newsletter.

Vonnie Bradbury agreed to chair an ad hoc committee for organizational changes including the possibility of seeking a part time paid person who would act as coordinator of LIFE programs/activities. Extensive discussion followed.

Lee Cross, Vice President noted that some items in our Policy document needed review, and that proposed changes will be sent to the board this month for a vote at our December meeting. There was also a short discussion on possible review of the Strategic Plan.

Ray Jones, Webmaster, noted that the site is working well, and that there has been a good response to the email requests for evaluation of speakers and topics.

Marie Ruckstuhl noted that there are Experiential Learning events coming up that need additional participants in order to receive the group rate.

The next Board meeting will be Monday, December 4. An agenda will be distributed prior to the meeting.

Following a motion and positive vote, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jean Siegfried, Secretary.

# DOLLARS AND SENSE:

What is the value of LIFE? Do the math.

free admission to sporting events

student discount at commercial venues

(cost of membership) / (58 school year LIFE sessions + 11 summer sessions) =

\$2.17 per LIFE session

free access to the UCF library

(\$5 daily parking fee) - (free parking pass provided to members) =

\$170 savings over the school year

cheaper admission for theatre & music

## FREE ATHLETICS UPDATE:

A number of our LIFE members have had difficulty getting into athletic events, free, (except football) with their LIFE Student ID cards. This issue was discussed with Lizzy, the wonderful woman who proudly gives us updates, weekly, about the UCF Knights athletic schedule. It was discovered that some LIFE members have cards that identify them as "Guest" or "Student" leading to the confusion. Tammy Reeves, the manager of the UCF card services has agreed to swap out any LIFE Student ID that has the above designations, with an ID that has "LIFE Student" on it. To get this new ID card, LIFE members must take their current card to the "Card Services" office for a free exchange. However, please be advised that should a member lose a card there will be a \$15 fee to replace.

To get current information/schedules on athletic events go to: <https://www.ucf.edu/athletics/> where you can also click and listen to a recording of the UCF Fight Song! GO KNIGHTS!

UCF CHARGE ON TO THE FIELD WITH OUR SPIRIT, WE'LL NEVER YIELD! BLACK AND GOLD CHARGE RIGHT THROUGH THE LINE! VICTORY IS OUR CRY V-I-C-T-O-R-Y! TONIGHT OUR KNIGHTS WILL SHINE!

# HEAD HUNTER

11



**Grab your reading glasses. Can you find current LIFE President Julian Meitin in this Tuesday morning crowd?**

**(Come find Gail or Alli if you do. They're probably looking for him.)**





# in their own words: john & ann gardepe

Our careers: Anne and I both are retired elementary school teachers. We enjoyed teaching American and Florida history. We found early on that visiting historical sites enabled us to better share this information with our students. Seeing the children become excited about learning helped us be better teachers. Over the years we collected many 'artifacts' (reproductions) that we obtained at each historic location. Touching and using them gave the students a hands-on experience that

enhanced our lessons. What do we enjoy most about LIFE? We are lifelong learners. We have been enrolled in senior learning programs at UCF and Rollins College. There have been so many great speakers. It is also important to us to be around friends who are lifelong learners. Anne has never stopped teaching and now teaches at Rollins College in their lifelong learning program. (UCF LIFE members will have a chance to hear Anne when she shares a program in April).

Hobbies, activities, volunteer activities: We both are very active in our church and seem to be there at least 2 or 3 days each week. This has included being on session, teaching, and learning. It also includes being members of Prime Timers. Each month we travel to mostly central Florida museums, historical sites or points of interest. This also includes lunch together at some wonderful restaurants. Yum! Our hobbies include: Jazzercise, Tai Chi, computers, reading

and spending time with our daughter and grandchildren.

Volunteer: We are Ambassadors for Road Scholar which is a not-for-profit worldwide senior educational travel organization. We have been on 25 trips with Road Scholar visiting signature cities, national and state parks, Adventures Afloat to Alaska and river cruising in France! Each program is mostly all-inclusive. We have favorites, but when asked, I will often respond that mine is the next one. Ahhh, anticipation! If you have any questions concerning any of their 5500 programs please ask us!

Memorable experiences: Our first TransAtlantic crossing—many special activities: a photography class, dancing lessons (big waves at times made the dance steps slow, slow, lurch, lurch), and wonderful entertainment. Oh, that pampering again! We have another TransAtlantic cruise scheduled next August! Ahh, anticipation! In recalling special experiences, I must include all of our Road Scholar trips to national parks. There IS a reason they are called NATIONAL parks! I would be glad to show you my favorite pictures. The individuals leading these programs

ensure that you don't just see but you will learn too. Leaders have the knowledge of the area and the passion to teach and share it with you!

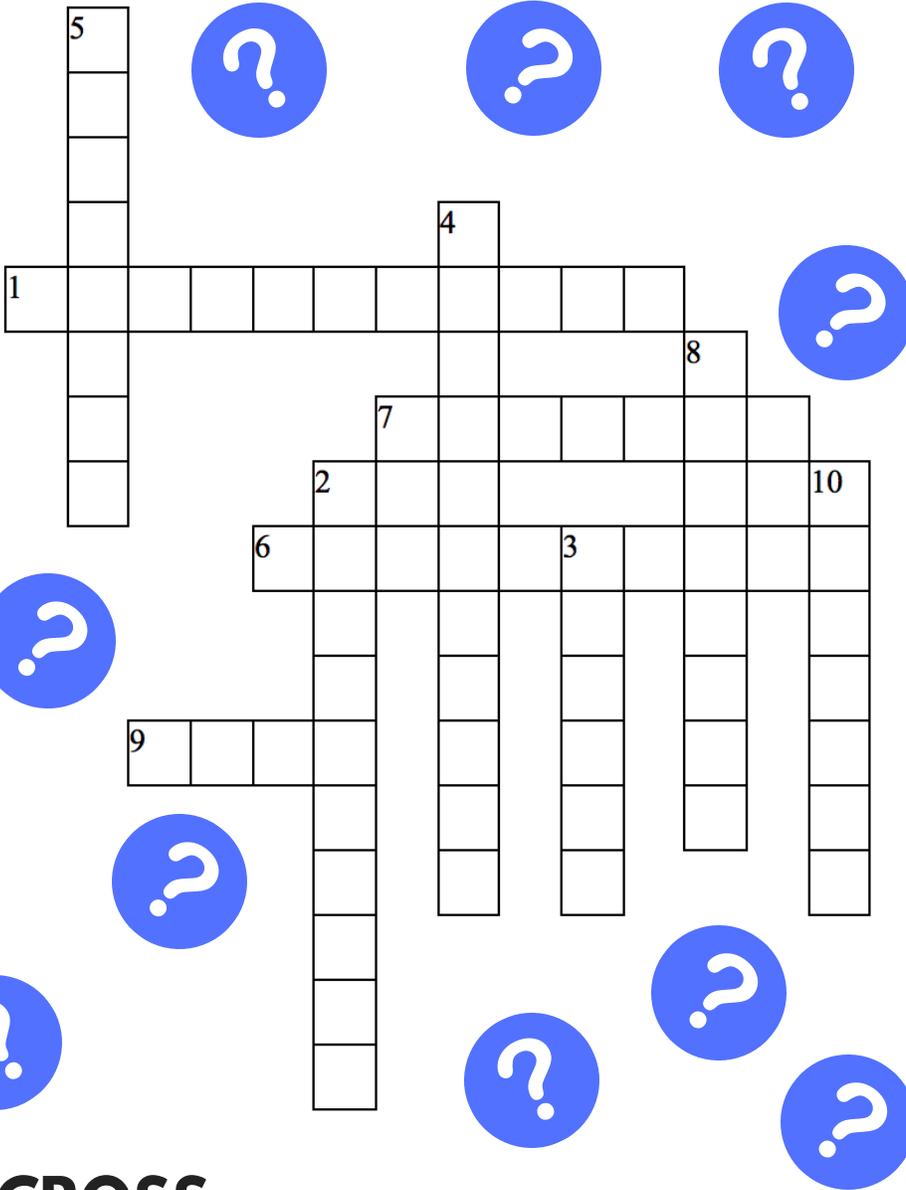
Thanks for allowing us to share with you.

- John & Ann  
Gardepe



# TRIVIA TANGLE:

how well do you know your fellow LIFE members?



## DOWN:

- 2. Name of one of the lovely ladies, gracing the cover of this month's LIFE Times.
- 3. If you see Ann Barretta at her job at Disney say, "Hi, \_\_\_\_\_!"
- 4. The newest high school in Oviedo is named for which LIFE member?
- 5. Newlyweds Vonnie & Ray were married in what fun time city?
- 8. Dawn & George Sumrall sang at what iconic concert hall?
- 10. 51 years ago, Bill & Chris Myers spent their honeymoon "year" in what country?

## ACROSS:

- 1. Name of the new LIFE member whose daughter is Amanda, the former LIFE Student Assistant who is now a Fulbright scholar in Bulgaria.
- 6. Which talented LIFE member is a fold artist?
- 7. Names of our two current Student Assistants.
- 9. Judy Thames is the past president of the Florida chapter of what national organization?

## ANSWERS:

(not necessarily in order, not spaces between words and/or first and last names)  
 Germany; Debbie Mayer; Paul Hagerly; Susan Monde; Mickey; Las Vegas; All Sam; Lucy Pulido; AARP; Carnegie;

Put a fun fact about yourself in our box at the Welcome table to be featured in the next Trivia Tangle!