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November 2019/January 2020

LIFetimes

See the LIFetimes in stunning color: life.ucf.edu

The November newsletter had a printing issue. This month we have combined November & January.

This month in "LIFE on Board," we highlight LIFE Treasurer, Ann Barretta and Secretary, Mike Agor.

Ann Barretta



on board

Although originally from the Bronx in New York, Ann Barretta arrived in Central Florida, with her husband Sal, from Burke, VA. The self-proclaimed, "best friends" met at NYU. Now married for over forty-four years, the couple boast two sons and six grandchildren to the Barretta name!

Ann was one of the LIFE members who raised her hand during the incredibly interesting session about law enforcement and their use of DNA background information on family members that aids in finding nefarious individuals in our society. I'm not suggesting that there are any skeletons in Ann's closet, but her results from ancestry.com proclaimed her, 100% Sicilian!

While still in Virginia, Ann became a CPA and is proud that she still does work for her own clients. That background combined with being the treasurer of her HOA, makes her highly qualified to be our LIFE Treasurer, a position she has held for three years.

When asked why she and Sal chose a move to Central Florida, Ann was quick to tell me that the reason was pursuit of her dream job. I pressed for more information and found that fantasy became reality in the place "where dreams really do come true...." Walt Disney World! Ann is a friend of Mickey and Donald Duck; however, she does even more at WDW. For those of you who have been lucky enough to experience the Candlelight Processionals during the Holiday Season at EPCOT, you may have seen her dressed in green (part of the employee tree) and singing carols accompanying guest narrators and choirs at the American Pavilion. Ann performs about twelve shows a year; 2019 was her 12th season!

It's hard to believe that this busy lady has any spare time, but she also enjoys needlework and volunteers at The Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts. Ann Barretta has been a LIFE member for over ten years; she may be our LIFE Treasurer, but for those of us who know her, we can also assure you, she is truly a LIFE treasure!

Mike Agor

Mike is a native of Norfolk, VA and grew up a block from the Chesapeake Bay proving to be a fortunate and lucrative location in the summer when Mike and friends would crab in the waters of the bay, pulling in dozens of blue crabs. They would then sell the delectable, and freshly caught crustaceans, to tourists right on the beach.

He moved to Central Florida, back in 2003 following a successful 27 year career as a Naval Officer. After graduation from the United States Naval Academy and marriage to high school sweetheart, Gail, Mike rose through the ranks to command a nuclear submarine.

Four years ago, Mike retired from his "second career." Although he and Gail had built a beautiful home in Chuluota that was supposed to be their "forever home," it became obvious that southwest Orange County was where they truly wanted to be; Mike and Gail downsized, bought a condo in Dr. Phillips and began a "restful" retired life. Within two months of retiring Mike was recruited by the Membership Committee of LIFE; and a month later was added to the LIFE Board.

Anyone who defines "retirement" as laid back and restful, has never experienced it Mike Agor style. Mike is not only on his Condo Board (of 44 homes) as a Director, he is beginning his second year as President of the Vizcaya Master Board of Directors. Additionally, during tax season, he volunteers for the AARP Tax Aid, teaching, mentoring and heading up two sites in South Orange County, completing taxes for individuals who avail themselves of this valuable service!

The Agors have one son, who with his wife and three children, live west of Seattle, WA. Allen followed in his father's footsteps as a USNA graduate and is now finishing a "shore" tour of duty, after which he will assume command of a submarine. The "elder" Agors try to fly to Seattle several times a year while balancing an active vacation schedule!



Welcome to 2020 and the Spring semester for LIFE at UCF! Our Curriculum Committee has assembled another fantastic roster of presenters who, over the next 15 weeks, will educate, entertain and fascinate our LIFE members. Some of the highlights of the Spring semester include:

- A Spring kickoff presentation on the history of Women’s Voting Rights by former (and very first) Orange County Mayor, Linda Chapin.
- A 4-week series of presentations from our good friends at the UCF Department of Music
- A 4-week series of presentations from our great partners at UCF Global Perspectives
- Our annual end-of-year Showcase and Celebration of LIFE at UCF

And these are just some of the highlights! For a complete list of Spring, 2020 presenters, check out the class schedule at www.life.ucf.edu. You won’t want to miss a single week!

But before we “Spring” into 2020, lets take a look back on some of the highlights and accomplishments from our Fall, 2019 session:

- A “virtual” freefall through 26 miles of the stratosphere with Google Senior VP Alan Eustace
- A “behind-the-scenes” look at how DNA evidence is impacting an on-going local criminal investigation with Former OPD Detective (and UCF Professor) Michael Moreschi
- An update from our good friend Lisa Dieker and the great work being done to help relieve the impact of PTSD at UCF Restores
- 2 great presentations from current LIFE at UCF members: A Veterans Day military review from Rich Sloane and look back at the life of General George Marshall from Aaron Lieberman

Keep reading, Todd’s comments are continued on the next page!

Those are just a few of the fantastic speakers and presentations we were privileged to experience last fall.

But Fall, 2019 was also highlighted by the on-going generosity of LIFE at UCF and its members. More specifically:

- An “unofficial” record number of toys donated by LIFE members at our annual Toys for Tots drive led by Kim Bowers and Janice and Clint Buczkowski
- Almost 800 pounds of food and \$2,500 donated by LIFE members at our Fall drive to support Knights Pantry led by Deb Barton and Jane Leach
- \$28,000 shared with the many people and organizations at UCF that help make LIFE the one-of-a-kind experience it is. This includes another significant sponsorship of UCF Celebrates the Arts.....*stay tuned for more on this and how LIFE members can enjoy this annual experience.*

Thank you to all the members and volunteers who made the Fall semester another great LIFE experience. But for now, buckle your seat belts and get ready for LIFE/2020 and 30 enriching sessions made possible by the work of our Curriculum Committee!

See you in class!
Todd

**UCF LIFE
has joined Social Media!
Search
Learning Institute for Elders at
University of Central Florida**

**We are building our
community. This new
Facebook account is an
incredible way to learn,
post comments & share with
our diverse population of
over fifties!**



**Sign into FACEBOOK,
go to the site and
“like.”**

By Diane Wink



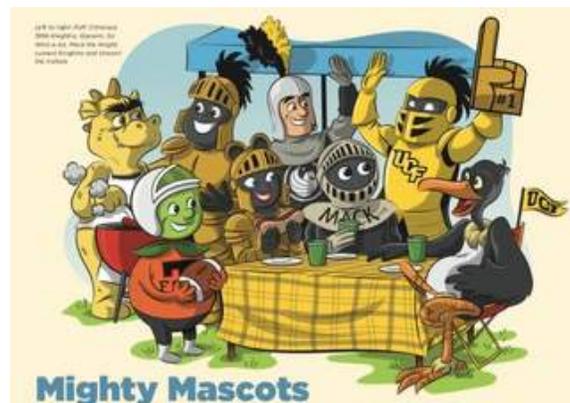
Most LIFE members know UCF's symbol is Pegasus and its mascot Knight. The winged horse Pegasus, was chosen as the symbol of FTU at its inception. After 50+ years and the university's name change in 1978, Pegasus remains a symbol seen across the university's many locations. On the library side of the Student Union is a Pegasus mural crafted in 2017 by Boy

Kong. Also, on the Union, a mural by Michael Pilato & Yuriy Karabash depicting student Juan Guerrero and his partner, Alumnus Christopher Leinonen (both killed during the Pulse nightclub shooting) as Pegasus and doves fly above. At the Honors College is "Wind Dancer," a Pegasus statue created by UCF Alumna Mindy Colton. Vandalized in 2015, it was repaired by engineering students using equipment loaned from Limitless Solutions, the UCF program creating 3D limbs for children.

Many think the first UCF mascot was Citronaut, a short figure in a green helmet and orange shirt. Created by Norman Van Meter, brother-in-law of FTU's first president Charles Millican, it was a cover picture for the first student handbook, and NOT a mascot. A year-long mascot search began in 1969, generating 80 suggestions including Vincent the Vulture, representing the many vultures on campus and immortalized in taxidermy when the friendly guy died. The final vote was between Knights of Pegasus and the Golden Paladins; the winner, a Knight.

Mascot variations through the years changed the Knight, frequently. One a Disney contribution, Puff (a dragon), Sir Wins a Lot, Mack the Knight, and, finally, Knightro of today. A female mascot, Glycerine, briefly joined the team but is now history. Knightro, part of the Spirit Squad, now wears gold gloves and suit of armor, usually carries a sword, and wears a full-face covering gold helmet, causing fans to adapt since some thought the helmet made Knightro appear to be wearing a cow catcher from a train engine. Knightro wrangles invites to all sorts of university events. Luckily, he has a good-sized wardrobe to ensure appropriate dress, be it a military appreciation event, formal dinner, or UCF's Homecoming spirit splash. Knightro can also roll across the floor on skates, drive a motorized car, dance, participate in gymnastic performances with the cheer team and has an amazing ability to travel quickly from place to place especially when UCF athletic teams are playing home and away games simultaneously.

UCF's Pegasus Symbol and Knight Mascot often join forces at home football games. After the Marching Knights take the field, a Knight, in full regalia, gallops in on Pegasus (an actual horse - no wings). The Knight raises his sword high before joining Knightro encouraging the crowd to cheer. In 2018 they were joined by the newest representative of UCF - Knugget, a miniature horse. And, while never the FTU or UCF mascot, Citronaut can often be seen on campus since he was a part of UCF's 50th anniversary celebration. Guess, along with Knugget, he is an honorary mascot.



From UCF Today: UCF Ranks Among Nation's Top 20 Most Innovative Universities

The university also placed in the top 50 for best undergraduate teaching and undergraduate research, according to *U.S. News & World Report*.

BY ANTHONY MOORE | SEPTEMBER 9, 2019



The Lockheed Martin Cyber Innovation Lab serves as a learning hub, an engineering classroom, and a practice center for UCF's cyberdefense team. (Photo by Nick Leyva '15)

For the third consecutive year, UCF has been recognized among the nation's most innovative universities according to *U.S. News & World Report's* 2020 Best Colleges Rankings.

Placing 16th in the publication's "Most Innovative Schools" category, UCF is Florida's top-ranked school for innovation. The university placed ahead of several Ivy League universities, including Cornell, Harvard and Princeton.

The Most Innovative Schools category recognizes institutions that are making the most innovative enhancements to their institutions in terms of curriculum, faculty, students, campus life, technology or facilities. Since the category was first introduced in 2015, UCF has been named on the annual list on four separate occasions.

"UCF's innovation comes from its exceptional people, its use of technology to help students succeed and the power of partnerships to have the greatest impact," says Interim President Thad Seymour Jr. "That's what makes us one of the country's model 21-century universities and the nation's leading producer of talent."

For more information about the Lockheed Martin Cyber Innovation Lab go to <https://www.ucf.edu/news/cyber-education-expand-ucf-1-5-million-gift-lockheed-martin/> to read an article by Kimberly J. Lewis and Rachel Williams from February 15, 2019.

LIFE at UCF BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MINUTES October 2019

The meeting was called to order and the August 2019 Board Meeting minutes were unanimously approved. The Executive Director, Leslie Collin, provided an update on the membership process review committee’s progress and said that the LIFE renewal period will end on May 30, 2019 so the data can be provided to UCF to meet their time requirements. She also said that a public Facebook page seems to be a good method to provide more timely communications with members and the investigation into the use of Social Media was continuing. Our Treasurer, Ann Barretta, reviewed the financial report and reported the Financial Audit was satisfactorily completed. There are \$23,489.26 in Gerontology Reserves, \$18,940 in Technology Reserves and \$33,717 in Unrestricted Reserves. LIFE Appreciation Awards list was approved and \$28,000 was allocated. The list of awardees is provided below.

LIFE at UCF 2019 Appreciation Awards – Approved \$28,000			
Global Perspectives	\$2000	College of Medicine	\$1000
Parking Services	\$1500	College of Sciences	\$2000
UCF Library	\$1000	Athletics	\$1000
Psychology Department	\$1000	Center for Success of Women Faculty	\$1000
Student Union	\$3000	UCF Celebrates the Arts	\$10,000
Knights Pantry	\$500	UCF Card Services	\$1000
Interdisciplinary Studies	\$3000		

Old Business - A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to change Curriculum, Strategic Goal #3 to read “The total curriculum offerings for any given Fall or Spring Semester will reflect “Enjoyment” [Average percent response to the Evaluation Q1 options 1 & 2 combined]; and the “Total Value” [Average percent response to Evaluation Q’s 1-5, options 1 & 2 combined] results at or above the 70% level.”

New Business – The Diversity and Inclusion Committee position statement was approved unanimously. It reads “Life at UCF, as a partner with the University of Central Florida, supports UCF’s goals and objectives regarding diversity and inclusion, and will strive to ensure that membership and curriculum policies and practices are consistent with the guidelines established by the partner university.” Jim Burr provided an update on the Public Relations (PR) Strategic Plan and the PR Committee will review the Strategic Plan and make recommendations for changes to the Board.



Fall is finally in the air and we are down to the last weeks of this semester. I hope you all are enjoying the diverse & interesting

programming our Curriculum committee has scheduled. If you have a speaker suggestion you can fill out the form on our website at <https://life.ucf.edu/curriculum/suggest-a-speaker-members/> or you can pick up a 'green sheet' at our welcome desk. Our last Fall class is Tuesday, November 26th. We will be releasing our Spring schedule by the end of November. For now, mark your calendar for Tuesday, January 21st as our first class in spring. Our organization relies upon volunteers to plan our curriculum, our experiential field trips, and coordinate our membership drive.

Our Hospitality committee, our Diversity and Inclusion committee and our Public Relations committee are three relatively new committees that have formed over the past year. These committees are hard at work bringing new ideas to our organization. If you have thought about getting involved or have questions, please feel free to reach out to me at leslie.collin@ucf.edu.

Thank you for your generosity to our Knights Helping Knight Food drive and our Toys for Tots drive. LIFE at UCF is more than just Tuesday classes – it's a community of compassionate and passionate individuals who are 50 and getting better!

I wish each of you a veryHappy Thanksgiving!

Leslie



LIFE Inspiration

“Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at 20 or 80. Anyone who keeps learning stays young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young.”

~ Henry Ford

Diversity

Last Fall, UCF celebrated its commitment to diversity and inclusion at their annual Valarie Greene King Diversity Breakfast in the Pegasus Ballroom. At the breakfast, a number of committed students and administrators were recognized for their extraordinary efforts over the last year to promote diversity and help our partner University achieve its vision.....To position UCF as a center of excellence that is nationally recognized as a higher education model for our diversity and inclusion practices, policies, and culture. As a proud partner of the University, LIFE at UCF was honored to support this celebration and recognize our role in helping UCF achieve its vision.

Leslie Collin, LIFE at UCF Executive Director and Todd Bowers, LIFE at UCF President were joined by several other LIFE members at the annual celebration.

As for LIFE's role in UCF's vision, our

Board of Directors unanimously approved the following position statement to clarify our commitment:

LIFE at UCF, as a partner with the University of Central Florida, supports UCF's goals and objectives regarding diversity and inclusion, and will strive to ensure that membership and curriculum policies and practices are consistent with the guidelines established by our partner university.

Jose Vazquez, chairs the LIFE Diversity and Inclusion Committee and would welcome any input from members on how we can support UCF's diversity and inclusion vision at:

<https://diversity.ucf.edu/>.

To Learn more about UCF's vision go to <https://diversity.ucf.edu/vision>.

Experiential Learning in Athletics!

If you are a fan of UCF football, you may wonder what it's like to move from the locker room through the tunnel and onto the field at the start of a game. Maybe you are curious about what the view of the game is like from one of those Cabana seating areas located in each end zone or if sitting in one of the club sections positioned across from each other at mid field. And, just what is inside the big indoor practice facility next to the stadium? LIFE members got answers to all these questions and more during a tour of UCF's athletic facilities lead by Justin Miller. Additional stops were at one of the stadium's two murals painted by UCF football alum Aaron Evans, the *George O'Leary* statue, the massive outdoor football practice field, the *Garvey Nutrition Center*, the *Wayne Dench Center for Student-Athlete Leadership* and the future site of *McNamara Cove* and its 600-foot lazy river, pools and sand volleyball courts.



Tour de UCF: Homes of Arts and Humanities

-Diane Wink a supplemental 😊

This tour is in a newer portion of campus. Leave the Student Union on the library side, look right to view the huge Pegasus mural by Boy Kong. Turn right along the curve of the building to view the mural created by Michael Pilato and Yuriy Karabash to memorialize victims of the Pulse nightclub shooting. The couple depicted are a UCF alumnus and student killed that night. Forty-nine doves surround the mural, one for each victim.



Walk a few feet until you see a path across the street leading to the Burnette Honors College *Meditation Garden*. Enjoy, then head through the entrance doors and make two quick rights to see art, some by UCF faculty, in a hallway lined with small classrooms. Return to the lobby and turn right. If no event in progress, check out the reading room which also serves as a gathering place for all students - you included. Returning to the lobby, look for a framed American flag on the left wall. This is the American flag flown from the building's roof on September 11, 2001 and is saved as a memorial to those who died that day.

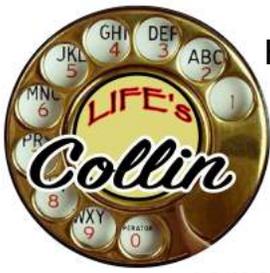
Exit via the door opposite the garden entrance to see "Wind Dancer," a Pegasus sculpture created by UCF Alumna Mindy Colton. Turn right and head to the open breezeway between the Visual Arts buildings where there are often displays by students in the visual arts program which include

printmaking, illustration, painting, sculpture, architecture, and photography. Enter the hall on your right and peek through open doors to see the tools of the many artistic crafts being taught and, if you are lucky, art in progress. Then, turn back and cross the breezeway to explore the opposite hall. At the far end, leave the building on the Art Gallery end. Ahead are the two Performing Arts buildings filled with classrooms and labs where theater and music majors develop their crafts. The Theatre side has rehearsal space, lighting, staging, and other labs. Posters of prior theatre productions adorn the walls. The adjoining Music building houses the box office where tickets to *School of Performing Arts* performances can be purchased. Often, its halls are filled with a cacophony of sounds; student musicians practicing their craft. Exit via the far end and turn right to see the *Rehearsal Hall*, site of many of the music presentations you hear about each week. To return to the Student Union take the path to the side of the Honors College.

(This is the third in a series outlining tours of UCF. Tours 1 and 2 are available in the March and April 2019 newsletters on the LIFE at UCF web site.)

December Board Meeting Synopsis

- Membership feedback was that this was a great semester. Enjoyment 88% and Value 90.3% exceeded established goals.
- The average attendance was 325 members over 24 sessions.
- 32.4% of attendees provided feedback.
- *The LIFE Facebook page is "live" – please "LIKE" us.*
- The Diversity and Inclusion Committee position statement was updated on various LIFE documents.



Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a restful break and is ready to "Charge On" into 2020!

Our Spring 2020 schedule is complete, and we have a dynamic group of presenters. Please remember to check for a LIFE email **every** Saturday before the Tuesday class. In this email, we give a more detailed description of the topic to be presented and a bit of a background on our speakers. The one comment I hear most often from our members is "I didn't think I would enjoy learning about xyz, but I am so glad I came!" If you are not getting our emails, please stop by the welcome desk before class or during the break.

The Student Union is in the final stages of construction with an anticipated completion date of June 2020! We will see a two-story food court and expanded seating. Café Bustelo will be leaving sometime in March and will be replaced with Starbucks

In June. Mrs. Fields will remain open for our coffee needs.

Our final event of the year is our Showcase which will be held on Tuesday, April 21st. This event will begin with a Mix and Mingle where a continental breakfast will be offered and members have the opportunity to meet some of our UCF partners. We then have our annual meeting before we celebrate our volunteers and enjoy a Jazz Piano presentation by UCF faculty and students. The Showcase committee is getting ready to meet and begin to plan this event. If you are interested in participating on this committee, see me on Tuesday or email me at leslie.collin@ucf.edu.

Please remember when you visit our Facebook page to "like" us! We will be using this page to update our members on LIFE and UCF events!

Looking forward to a wonderful Semester!

Leslie

NOTICE

Membership Renewal update: UCF will institute a new process for renewing LIFE Student ID cards in July.

Please renew by April 30 so we can get information to UCF to meet their needs and ensure we have your current email address. UCF will send you an email in July to validate data they have on file for you including your current address and phone number. **UCF must have your current email address.** If you are not receiving our weekly email blast, please stop by and give us an update.

The renewal period will begin in February and end on April 30, 2020.



NOTICE