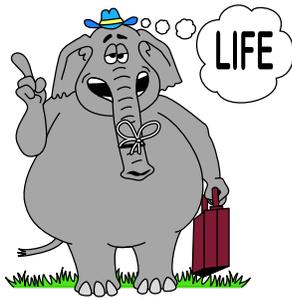


LIFetimes

Gail Agor, editor agorgail@mail.com

Don't miss the opportunity to see the LIFetimes in amazing color! Go to our website at life.ucf.edu, not only will you be able to read the newsletter in color, you can access valuable information about upcoming classes, register for Experiential Learning opportunities and so much MORE!



Life at UCF membership renewal period will open in mid-February and close on April 30, 2020.

Renewals after this date will incur a late fee.

Please watch your email for more details.

This year UCF is instituting a verification process for student renewal that will compare our records to information you are asked to supply by email to UCF. Your help is needed to ensure we have your first and last name (as listed on a valid government ID), email address, date of birth, and an actual physical address (not a PO Box).

ELECT

The Nominating Committee of LIFE at UCF is seeking nominations from its membership for individuals to serve on **LIFE's Board of Directors**. To nominate yourself, send an email to life@ucf.edu or see Pete Bodnarik, Committee Chair at a LIFE meeting with your name and contact information (phone/email) and a brief statement why you want to serve on the board.
DEADLINE for nominations: February 25th

LIFE
Board of Directors

F.Y.I.

The dues you pay enables YOU to attend **Experiential Trips!** Local trips/opportunities are for **LIFE MEMBERS** only!



A conversation with Enrique is inspirational. What an incredible human being with an extraordinary history! I sat

with Enrique during a recent break between lectures...the time wasn't nearly long enough as I could have listened to him for hours! Enrique left his home; St. Thomas, Jamaica in 1969 to enlist as an infantry soldier in the Army. Circumstances determined that Enrique become a helicopter door gunner in Vietnam, where he served two tours of duty. Upon completion of his service, he returned home and attended classes at New York's Pace University where Enrique earned a degree in accounting and finance. With degree in hand Enrique set upon a career that took him first to NYC working for ConEdison and then to Washington D.C. where Mayor Marion Barry hired him as the D.C. Water Registrar to fix the controversial water bill fiasco. An impressive resume of other positions followed, including the National Guard in Puerto Rico where he worked with the military police in logistics as an auditor. He completed stints in both Desert Storm and Desert Shield.

Enrique was living in Canada in 2001, when on September 11th, The World Trade Center and Pentagon were attacked. He immediately packed his car and drove to Washington D.C. becoming a member of the D.C. National Guard; again, stepping up to do his duty to our country. He was stationed at The Armory. Enrique retired from the Army in 2009.

As a new LIFE member this year, Enrique attracted members' attention because of his dog Lilo who accompanies him to weekly meetings. I will talk of Lilo a bit later, because she is a major part of his life, but there is so much more to share about Enrique Jograj! Although Enrique has family in Ft. Lauderdale, he came to Central Florida on the recommendation of a college

A Continuing Lifetime of Service... to Country & to Others

Enrique Jograj



golf, suggested he get involved with Fairways for Warriors. This non-profit brings military personnel, who have been wounded in the service of our country, together on the links providing camaraderie to others who have sustained injuries and who might be finding the transition to civilian life, challenging. With his passion rekindled, Enrique has regular tee times three times a week with a group of about a dozen other wounded warriors.

Last fall, I missed Enrique at a couple of meetings. I sent him an email enquiring about his absence and received this email in response:

"I was away for two weeks on a work/play/vacation trip. I went to Guyana with a group of Guyanese friends who are educators who attended university, worked and retired in the US. Now that they are retired they have banded together to help the high schools back home. They send a team home several times per year to visit schools in one or two towns. They mostly bring supplies (books and other materials), good news and encouragement. The chief coordinator had his 70th birthday this year and thought it a good idea to bring 70 volunteers to work and celebrate his birthday.

It was my first trip to Guyana although my friends have invited me several times before now. I learned a lot, saw lots of

this vast country and got a chance to tell the students about life in the US Military as a career.”

Obviously, I wanted more information and questioned him about the trip. First off, I was highly impressed that 70 people decided to go. The group was comprised of friends who had maintained contact for many years. I asked about the work that was done and was told that everyone has different strengths and those gifts were earmarked and utilized for the Guyanese towns and people visited. Enrique enjoyed working at several high schools, speaking to students who are planning to come to the United States for college. His background as an enlisted man and an officer gives him unique insight from which to educate young men and women as to the rewards and challenges of someone in the military.

Pawsitive Action Foundation run by Norma Ross in St. Cloud needed volunteers. A part of their mission statement is; *“Our goal is every Veteran, First Responder, and Child with different abilities can live pawsitive lives with the help of a specialized service dog. We believe that quality service dogs, and highly trained recipients create a lifetime bond between person and service dog.* I encourage anyone interested in this valuable service to visit the website at; <https://www.pawsitiveaction.org> for more information! Although Enrique first went to do whatever volunteer jobs were needed from raking to cleaning, his value was quickly assessed and he moved to the office where his former management skills helped organize and effectively manage day-to-day activities, 12 hours a day, six days a week only taking Sundays off to attend church. His spiritual beliefs are as committed as his service convictions.

...and now, enter Lilo! Enrique told me that most veterans prefer male dogs. When a litter is born, the males are placed much more quickly than female pups. Enrique wanted a service dog and was eying a new litter only to discover that all the males had already been

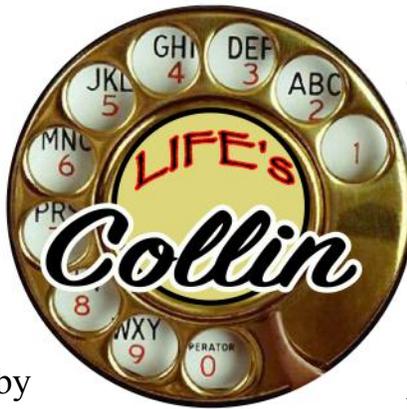


earmarked for others. Being the patient man he is, Enrique decided to wait until another litter of puppies became available. One day Norma informed him that she always knew as

soon as his car entered the PAF grounds since a female golden retriever would go crazy as soon as it did. Yep! You guessed it...beautiful Lilo. Enrique became her human; she achieved certifications faster than other service dogs in training, because, I believe, of their dedication and devotion to each other. I mentioned that I was amazed (and VERY pleased), that when I met Enrique and Lilo last fall, he graciously was allowing fawning LIFE members to pet her, since most service dogs are “working” and should not be distracted. Once again, this extraordinary man surprised and impressed me with the reason for his generous gesture that allows Lilo to be pet. You see... Enrique doesn't only attend LIFE meetings, golf with other wounded warriors, volunteer at Pawsitive Action, he also volunteers at the Veterans Hospital, Lake Nona. He works the concierge desk, a perfect fit for Enrique. Of course, Lilo accompanies him to work. Sometimes, veterans come by, tell Enrique that he/she has had a rough week and asks to pet Lilo. Allowing them this simple gesture was often enough to brighten the day of someone in need of a soft nose to touch or an ear to rub. With a touch, Lilo makes LIFE members happy, too.

I have too few words in my vocabulary to state the effect Enrique has had on me. His history has horrors few of us can imagine or comprehend; however, his strength of purpose and willingness to give of himself, and Lilo, creates a humbleness within me. It was an honor to interview him. I greatly appreciate Enrique joining us here at LIFE! I thank him for his on-going service that began over 50 years and continues today. -Gail

I hope everyone has enjoyed our Spring programs so far! Our February programming is always a highlight as we get inspired by dynamic speakers that are provided to us by Global Perspectives and are thrilled by the talent brought to our LIFE stage by the College of Arts and Humanities.



Our membership is also asked to get involved in LIFE during this month. Whether it is nominating yourself or a friend to serve on our board of directors or selecting committees to serve on as a member when you renew. LIFE is what it is today because of our member-driven efforts. If you have any questions, please free to email me at leslie.collin@ucf.edu.

February will also be a time for our members to get renew their LIFE membership and get involved in LIFE activities. Our membership renewal process will begin in mid-February. You will receive an invitation to renew for 2020-2021 through an email. If you do not have an email address, we encourage to come to the Welcome desk and ask for help in getting one. I know some members with certain email addresses (ie, AOL) have had problems receiving our weekly eblasts. If you are having a problem, please see Rebecca (my Student Assistant) for help. There are ways we can work around these issues. As we move forward with the renewal process, registered members will get a follow-up email from UCF. We will be sending information out separately so you can anticipate this important email.

Our Facebook page, Learning Institute for Elders at University of Central Florida, continues to provide LIFE members with updated information on our programs and events. We are posting UCF related events and activities on Thursdays so you can make weekend plans!

GO KNIGHTS!

-Leslie

We are starting a contest to increase our Facebook Likes! You can help us reach our goal of 250 likes on our Facebook page and be entered in to win a LIFE at UCF mug and a \$5 gift card to Starbucks! To get the chance to win one of the five mugs, all you need to do is like our Facebook page! If you have already liked our page you do not need to like our page again. You have already been entered into the raffle! The deadline for our goal of 250 "likes" is March 30th.

**We are SOCIAL!
Check out LIFE at UCF
on Facebook
"LIKE" us!**





"Where's the beef?" ...or any other chow?

With ten eating options at the Student Union and +/- eighteen more across the main UCF campus, it is hard to believe it was ever difficult to find a meal. Things were very different when FTU opened in 1968. Meals not brought from home could be found only in a cafeteria in the *Village Commons*, now *Ferrell Commons* or vending machines. Travel off campus was an option but Semoran's restaurants were 10 miles east via narrow FTU Boulevard. Oviedo's *Town House Restaurant* was 5 miles away via two lane Alafaya Trail. Colonial Drive was 8 miles south where one destination was *Tom's Hideaway* a bar/restaurant whose owner loved the students especially since, at the time, you were "legal" at age 18. The *University Inn Restaurant* was another option; but, for a great meal, alumni report, you traveled west on Colonial to a grocery with a real butcher (George) who made the "greatest subs ever" - big enough for 2 meals.

Restaurants, stores and housing were slow to appear near the campus, in part, because Orange and Seminole county commissioners feared without careful zoning the area would fill with "honkytonks and hot dog stands." The first commercial site approved was *Pizza Hut* on Alafaya. It remains as does other early arrivals, *Kelseys Bar* and *Subway*. In 1972, *McDonald's* ran ads in the student newspaper boasting their newest location; the corner of *Semoran and Aloma Avenues!*

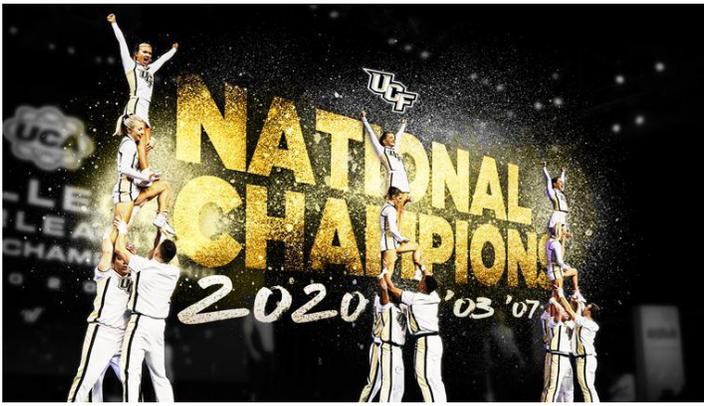
On campus meal options increased slowly. The *Snackbar*, served beer starting in 1973. Despite concerns, the only problem was overcrowding. A *Faculty Dining Room* was created by putting up a partial wall in the student cafeteria and serving the same food; later moved to what is now the Live Oak Room. A number of small vendors did set up on campus. One had a

wood shack near the (now) Math building with a small menu, mostly hot dogs. Food came to the north end of campus in 1977 when a cafe was included in the new College of Education/Gym Building. There was also a sandwich shop next to the campus bookstore and, in 1986, the *Wild Pizza* opened in the VC area offering pizza, other lunch fare and beer.

Nearby meal options exploded in 1987 when *University Shoppes* opened just across Alafaya. In addition to a movie theatre (later used for classes including LIFE at UCF's). Its restaurants included student and faculty favorites, *Kelsey's*, *Miss Saigon*, *University Pub*, *Domino's Pizza*, and a *McDonald's* actually NEAR UCF. *University Shoppes* was demolished in 2012 to make room for *Plaza at University*. Several of its restaurants moved across University but the *McDonald's* was rebuilt at its original location. In 1997 dining options increased with the opening of the *Student Union* growing further in 2007 with *Knights Plaza*.

Just in case there is any question about the quality of dining at UCF, Chef Jose from *Knightsro's* dining room won the chef's competition in the 2019 War on I-4.





In January the UCF Knights Cheerleading Squad became the national champions in their first national title since 2007.

For the complete story go to:

<https://ucfknight.com/news/2020/1/20/cheer-dance-ucf-cheer-wins-division-ia-national-championship.aspx>

EXPERIENTIAL TRIPS

For UCF at LIFE members

Please note: Often our trips have a maximum number of spaces available, for this reason, local trips are limited to LIFE members only.

February 21: Polasek House & Sculpture Garden

February 28: UCF Athletics

March 2: UCF College of Medicine tour

March 13: St John's River boat trip & possibility to see manatees

April 8: Volunteer to help at Clean the World

Best of Portugal

The deadline to travel with LIFE members to Portugal is fast approaching.

A few places still remain if you are interested in going.

Dates are: May 16-25, 2020.

For this opportunity, non-LIFE Members will be permitted to go, if they will be staying in a LIFE member's room.

For more information go to our website:

life.ucf.edu

Inspirational LIFE

Lost Words from our Childhood

Mergatroyd! Do you remember that word? Would you believe the spell-checker did not recognize the word Mergatroyd? Heavens to Mergatroyd!

The other day a not so elderly (I say 75) lady said something to her son about driving a Jalopy; and he looked at her quizzically and said, "What the heck is a Jalopy?" He had never heard of the word jalopy! She knew she was old ... But not that old.

Well, I hope you are Hunky Dory after you read this and chuckle.

About a month ago, I illuminated some old expressions that have become obsolete because of the inexorable march of technology. These phrases included:

Don't touch that dial, Carbon copy, You sound like a broken record, and Hung out to dry.

Back in the olden days we had a lot of moxie. We'd put on our best bib and tucker, to straighten up and fly right. Heavens to Betsy! Gee whillikers! Jumping Jehoshaphat! Holy Moley!

It turns out there are more of these lost words and expressions than Carter has liver pills. This can be disturbing stuff! (Carter's Little Liver Pills are gone too!)

We of a certain age have been blessed to live in changeable times. For a child each new word is like a shiny toy, a toy that has no age. We at the other end of the chronological arc have the advantage of remembering there are words that once did not exist and there were words that once strutted their hour upon the earthly stage and now are heard no more, except in our collective memory. It's one of the greatest advantages of aging!

Leaves us to wonder where Superman will find a phone booth...

WE ARE THE CHILDREN OF THE FABULOUS 30 40 & 50'S ... NO ONE WILL EVER HAVE THAT OPPORTUNITY AGAIN ... WE WERE GIVEN ONE OF OUR MOST PRECIOUS GIFTS: LIVING IN THE PEACEFUL AND COMFORTABLE TIMES, CREATED FOR US BY THE "GREATEST GENERATION!"

...have you ever had a head-scratching experience?

Scratch #1: I was at the airport, checking in at the gate when an airport employee asked, 'Has anyone put anything in your baggage without your knowledge?' To which I replied, 'If it was without my knowledge, how would I know?' He smiled knowingly and nodded, 'That's why we ask.'

- Happened in Birmingham , Ala.



Scratch #2: When my husband and I arrived at an automobile dealership to pick up our car, we were told the keys had been locked in it. We went to the service department and found a mechanic working feverishly to unlock the driver side door. As I watched from the passenger side, I instinctively tried the door handle and discovered that it was unlocked. 'Hey,' I announced to the technician, 'it's open!' His reply: 'I know, I already got that side.'

-This was at a dealership in Canton, MS

UCF Theater Tour

On February 4th, after our LIFE meeting, a group of members strolled over to the UCF Theater. Once there we viewed dressing rooms, set design spaces and costume construction areas. We also learned a bit about lighting and sound. The fascinating tour was “directed” by Director Michael Wainstein who educated us as to the process for choosing plays and musicals over a four year period, giving experience to UCF theater students in all genres of theater.

Planning and production meetings are already on the calendar through the 2021 season, emphasizing how massive and precise the engineering of this schedule is before the public is able to enjoy a stage production at UCF.

Thanks to Diane Wink who put our Experiential Trip Committee, chaired by Marie Rucksthul, in contact with the UCF Theater Department to make this trip happen. Don't miss out! Sign up, online, for upcoming experiential learning experiences!



To purchase tickets for the upcoming musical, *Urinetown*, go online to theatre.cah.ucf.edu and take advantage of this satirical comedy musical that won three Tony Awards in 2001. **Don't forget, LIFE members get student rates on tickets!



The next LIFE food drive For Knights Helping Knights Food Pantry will be on March 3.

Bring your nonperishable donations to the LIFE meeting.

If you don't want to go shopping, but would still like to donate...keep in mind, a monetary donation goes VERY FAR in making sure no UCF student goes hungry while getting an education!

