



# LIFetimes

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What an amazing feeling to be back at LIFE! Whether you are in-person or virtual, we have taken the first step in "returning to normal."

The September *LIFetimes* is jam-packed! This month we not only have a lot of info for LIFE members; we have added several new monthly columns! This makes me very excited and I'm sure you will find Dick Tucker's "Historical Memory of UCF" and Kim and Todd Bowers "Charge On," welcome additions to the *LIFetimes* as they join Diane Wink, Sam Shutt and me as regulars on the staff. Additionally, even though the 20th anniversary of September 11th has passed, we have included Dick Tucker's memory of that Tuesday morning in 2001, when then, as now, LIFE sessions were conducted from 8:45-11:30am. We must never forget!

This month has a plethora of offerings, some of which are sure to be of interest to each of you. We have humor, arts, sports, community service, history, survey results and reports, past and current. If, indeed, you find a hole, something lacking, common to our membership, please, contact me. We can add a one-time or a recurring column, especially since we are now entirely an on-line publication. You can always access the current newsletter by going to our LIFE website at <https://life.ucf.edu> we are under the "about" tab. Other information can be found on our Facebook site, Learning Institute for Elders at University of Central Florida... I know...long name, huh? Here is the link; <https://www.facebook.com/LIFEatUCF/> Make sure you "like" our page.

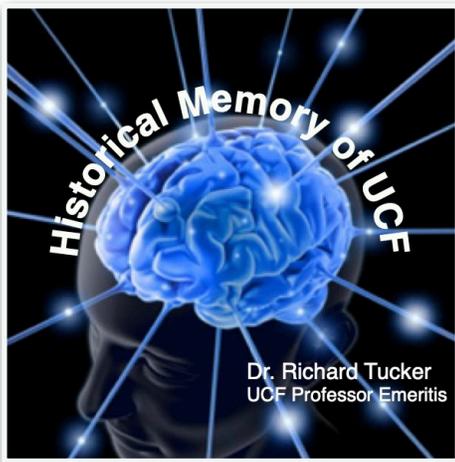
Never hesitate, to email me with comments and/or suggestions for the *LIFetimes*. See you on Tuesday mornings!  
-Gail



## LIFE Return Survey Results

I know many of you have wondered about the results of the “LIFE Return” survey. The results of the survey, completed by 232 members, was shared with the LIFE Board as we prepared for the start of the Fall season. Here are the primary conclusions we drew.

1. The majority of those completing the survey [74%] indicated that they were very or fairly enthusiastic about returning to In-Person sessions on the UCF campus [less than 6% said they were, very or fairly, unenthusiastic]. There were however significant concerns indicated by many of the respondents. Among the most prominent of these were:
  - a. Wanting all or the vast majority of members wearing masks
  - b. Wanting to be able to socially distance from others during sessions
  - c. Wishing they could be assured that the vast majority of members were vaccinated
2. A significant number of the respondents indicated that they would likely participate, at least some of the time, using the On-Line options. For those who indicated this, the reasons they gave included:
  - a. One group indicated that they were not ready to come in person and very much wanted the ability to participate remotely because of concern over the rising rate of COVID infection and variants.
  - b. Another group of those responding have a variety of transportation/mobility issues that make it difficult for them to participate in person
  - c. Finally, another group of responders indicated that they would watch presentations remotely all or some of the time out of pure convenience.



Dr. Richard (Dick) Tucker was one of the founders of LIFE at UCF, and served as the UCF Liaison to LIFE for over 25 years. He spoke at the new member orientation in August, highlighting the uniqueness of LIFE at UCF and the origination of our program. The response was very positive. When members asked how to learn more about the early history of LIFE, I asked Dr. Tucker if he could put something together for our LIFetimes newsletter. The history of LIFE at UCF could not be written briefly, so this column will appear as a series. This is the first. If you have specific questions for Dr. Tucker, contact him so he can tailor his subsequent comments to your interests. E-mail your questions/comments to Dr. Tucker at [Richard.tucker@ucf.edu](mailto:Richard.tucker@ucf.edu). -Gail

## The Birth of LIFE at UCF

### How did LIFE come about 30 years ago: A very personal recollection

The idea for a community-based lifelong learning program at UCF started in 1990 about 4 miles up Alafaya Trail at Canterbury Retreat Center. This was the location of an Elderhostel program, which provided week-long, residential educational programs for older adults. The national Elderhostel program had started to provide technical assistance to colleges and universities who were interested in hosting on-going community-based lifelong learning programs on their campus. At that time, there was such a program at the University of Miami and another at Eckerd College. Nationally, there were about 50 similar programs. Other programs were offered throughout the country, many hosted by colleges or universities, with the faculty often drawn from those institutions. The participants, typically limited to 30, came from all over the country. UCF could not host a residential program, so Canterbury Retreat Center would recruit UCF faculty, as well as professionals from the community, to offer the courses. In 1984, I began offering courses there several times a year; I became good friends with the program director, Louise Franklin Sheehy who asked if I thought UCF would be interested in such a program. Based on my professional interests in older adults and successful aging, I was very interested.

At the time, I was chair of the Department of Psychology and was also chairing UCF's first strategic planning project at the request of UCF President, Steve Altman. I mentioned the possibility of starting an on-going lifelong learning program to President Altman. He was very interested, as was his wife, Judy Altman, UCF's First Lady, whom I knew very well. Judy was also a good friend of Louise Franklin Sheehy and her Elderhostel program at Canterbury Retreat Center. Building on a foundation of mutual interests, we immediately moved forward to form a planning committee.

In addition to the three of us, I added two members, Dr. Janan Smither, a new Asst. Prof. I had just hired who shared my professional interest in gerontology, and Dr. Roy Connally, former chair of the Psychology Dept., its first retiree and the man whom I succeeded. Janan had a good friend, Joan Nelson, who was looking to get more involved with UCF, and fortunately, also held an MBA. We were also lucky to have technical assistance from someone at Elderhostel who was heading up the newly formed Elderhostel Institute Network. Judy and Louise agreed to co-chair the committee, but all were expected to actively contribute. The importance of Judy Altman is obvious. To highlight the importance of Louise Franklin Sheehy, she was introduced at the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of LIFE as "LIFE at UCF's mother".

The first task was probably the easiest. What was our mission? Like Elderhostel, we were committed to lifelong learning for older adults. However, it was

important that the content was appropriate to well-informed elders, and presented at a level consistent with an “academic”. But we were also committed to what the presence of these lifelong learners could have on the UCF community, especially in serving as models of active and healthy aging. We were keenly aware of pervasive ageism in our society, which was largely unrecognized, especially 30 years ago. I also was aware of the largely, subconscious or unconscious, negative attitudes of our students. It was a major goal in my Psychology of Aging course to raise the awareness of the students and offset many of the negative stereotypes of aging. The older students I met at Elderhostel, in my own seminars, reinforced my own belief system and reinforced the motivation to counter ageism.

The second task was to come up with a name for the program. Obviously, it should include a reference to “learning” and its goal of reaching older adults. It should also include UCF in the name. There was considerable discussion about a label to be used for “older adults” that was dignified. (We quickly eliminated “golden oldies”). We agreed that “elders” was the most appropriate term. We also thought it would be useful for the name to be a meaningful acronym. We readily and unanimously settled on The Learning Institute for Elders (LIFE) at UCF. We really liked “LIFE at UCF”.

Next, we discussed what our relationship with UCF should be. Most lifelong learning programs associated with colleges and universities, placed that type of program under continuing education. That seemed to be a logical placement, but we were concerned that the program would not be associated with any academic unit. Continuing Education at UCF was involved with a number of non-credit “professional” programs. Our program would be non-credit, but the planned content would align more with the academic units and their faculty. At that time, Psychology was in the

College of Arts and Sciences, so I had frequent contact with the Dean, Kathryn Seidel. She was enthusiastic about the proposed program and the possibility of the College of Arts and Sciences being the academic host. Psychology, of course, would be the sponsoring department. President Altman approved the recommendation.

A related issue was whether LIFE would be run by UCF, or simply “hosted”, with LIFE being a private, non-profit 501-C-3. We were not aware of any other lifelong learning programs NOT run by their host institution. UCF was already very committed to “partnerships” with companies and programs in Central Florida, and that was also a strong focus of our new Strategic Plan. President Altman felt that this would be a very appropriate partnership with full support from UCF.

A number of those partnerships, such as with the health and business sectors, were formally recognized with a signed “memorandum of understanding”. While the reality of a, “real partnership” was recognized and endorsed by UCF, it may be surprising to our members that an actual “partnership agreement” or “memorandum of understanding” was not formally prepared. It was just “understood”. A more formal written partnership agreement was not made until 2001 and renewed for two separate 5-year periods, as well as our current 10-year agreement. That partnership will be renewed sometime in this academic year.

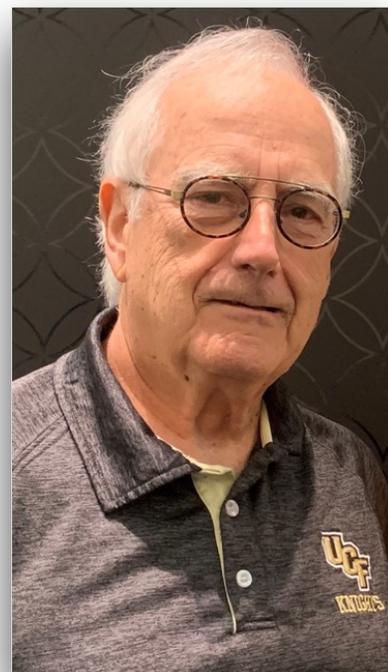
We also dealt with the very practical issues: Who would generate the by-laws? What would be the organizational structure, especially with a Board of Directors and key committees, such as curriculum planning and membership? What type of classes should we offer and how often?

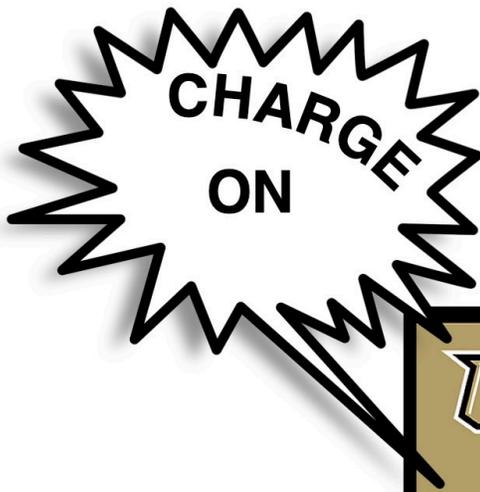
Should we only offer lectures, and could there be a lecture “series”? How would we recruit UCF faculty (and area professionals) to present and what, if anything, should they be paid? How often should we meet and where could we meet, preferably on a rapidly growing campus? How would we advertise and recruit members and what was a reasonable goal for membership size? Would we specify any requirements, such as age and level of education? What would be the financial requirements, both expenses and income? What kind of administrative support would be needed? How much “start up” money would be needed and how would we obtain it? What benefits would be offered to the members and how could we get UCF to be involved? Parking? An ID card? What about access to cultural events and athletics? How soon could we start?

More than 30 years later, the answers to many of those questions may be apparent, given the current structure of the LIFE program. But it may be just as interesting to know WHY and HOW the outcomes would be developed, and how that structure changed over time. Future articles will explore those questions, as well as other questions you may have about the founding of LIFE at UCF. Let me close this initial article by emphasizing the most critical aspect of our founding.

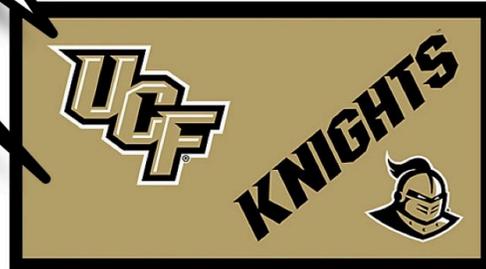
LIFE at UCF would not have come about as quickly as it did (about 7 months from the start of the planning committee), if we had not had the enthusiastic support of UCF. While we had the most important initial support from President Altman (and then from President Hitt for his 26 years, and now President Cartwright), information about the proposed program and its endorsement, was communicated to all of the Vice-Presidents, Deans, Department heads and faculty, and Directors of critical support services. That university-wide support has con-

tinued throughout our more than 30 years. I know of no other lifelong learning program in the country that meets right in the heart of the campus, is treated so well by the Student Union and Parking Services and has the benefits that come with our university-issued ID card. Very few of the programs are private, non-profits, not RUN, but rather HOSTED by the colleges and universities. We are not the largest program in the country, or the state, but we are likely one of the only ones who have returned over \$600,000 to the UCF faculty, students, departments, and support services through our various grant programs and “appreciation” awards. In addition, we have had generous member participation in Toys for Tots and the Knights Pantry, as well as private giving. You are part of a very unique lifelong learning program, and a special guest of this very welcoming university. Next year will mark 50 years of my association with this university, and LIFE at UCF has become the most important and satisfying of my contributions. I look forward to sharing more information about how LIFE began.





KIM & TODD BOWERS



# EXCITING TIMES FOR UCF SPORTS!!!

It's only a few weeks into UCF's Fall sports season and already history is being made! On Friday, September 10, UCF accepted an invitation to bring all of their sports to the Big 12 Athletic Conference. You know the Big 12.....home of Texas and Oklahoma (for now), perennial football powerhouses Oklahoma State and TCU, current NCAA Men's Basketball Champion and perennial Women's Basketball powerhouse Baylor, and Kansas, one of the most storied Basketball programs in NCAA history. This is a huge step up for our Knights and puts UCF on a level playing field with the best college athletic programs in the Nation. As of this writing, the exact date of the move hasn't been announced but one thing's for sure.....

## **The Knights are moving up!**

### **Who's playing this Fall?**

**Football** – UCF kicked off the 2021 Football Season with a thrilling come-from-behind 36-31 victory over a strong Boise State team on national television. The game was delayed for 3 hours due to lightning in the area but that didn't stop the Knights. The Knights face the Bethune Cookman Wildcats, the Navy Midshipmen and the Louisville Cardinals in the coming weeks.

**Volleyball** – UCF's Volleyball team kicked off its season on August 27 and currently sits at 3-4 with notable wins over Clemson and St. John's. As of this writing, they're competing in the annual UCF Invitational with Florida State, University of Georgia and Florida Gulf Coast. The Knight's are looking for big things this year to follow up on last year's 16-2 season that sent them to the NCAA Tournament.

**Men's Soccer** – After winning their 2 exhibition games, the Knights' Men's Soccer team has struggled a bit and currently sits at 1-3 including 2, 1 point losses to #10 Virginia Tech and North Carolina State. Look for good things down the road from the defending American Athletic Conference Champions!

**Women's Soccer** – After missing most of last year, the Knight's Women's Soccer team is off to a strong 4–2 start highlighted by a 2-0 victory over the always powerful Florida Gators! Results also include wins over Penn State, Ole Miss and Texas!

**Men's Tennis** kicks off its schedule in a couple of weeks at the USTA National Campus at Lake Nona and Cross Country is also underway.

**Finally** – Did you know that you can attend UCF home games (excluding football) with your LIFE at UCF Student ID? Be sure and check out some great college sports right on our UCF campus!

# Membership

## CORNER

Committee Chair  
Zalpa Hashem

September 2021

Welcome back to our renewing members and to our 200+ new members for the 2021-2022 year. Our organization is excited at kicking off the year and activities ahead of us and your LIFE Membership Committee is here to support you, our members, throughout the year. You can reach out to us with any questions about your membership through emails to [life@ucf.edu](mailto:life@ucf.edu) or in person on Tuesday mornings at the UCF Student Union facility before start of the lecture sessions. (Look for a Membership Committee member at the tables in front of the conference room.)

As you experience the many things that LIFE has to offer during the year, we welcome your feedback and your continued support of your LIFE organization. If you have friends or family who may be interested in joining LIFE, please ask them to register their information on our website and we look forward to inviting them to join us at our next yearly membership drive.

Here are a few membership logistics to keep in mind as we start the semester and new academic year of our LIFE program.

- **Your UCF Parking Pass, along with your LIFE Name Tag, have been mailed to you.** If you have not received them, please contact us via email and let us know.

- When attending LIFE classes in person on campus, we ask that you wear and display your LIFE membership Name Tag.

- As an active member of LIFE, you are entitled to student discounts and other benefits from UCF. Enjoy your benefits and opportunities within the extent of what is offered and available as we participate with UCF activities during this year. **However, this is only possible if you have/obtain a UCF Student ID.**

- **For our NEW LIFE Members, an “Application for LIFE Student ID” form has been mailed or emailed to you such that you can obtain your own UCF LIFE Student ID.** Visit *UCF Card Services on the main campus* to obtain your UCF Student ID card. You will need a valid photo ID along with the completed form mailed/emailed to you to be able to get your own UCF LIFE Student ID. (Contact us via email if you have not received this form from us.)

- **For our members with current student IDs,** your student ID card has a validity date imprinted on it. If your student ID card is expiring during the next two months (or has expired), you may renew your ID by contacting LIFE Membership. Contact us via email at [Life@ucf.edu](mailto:Life@ucf.edu) to obtain a completed and signed “Application for LIFE Student ID”, and detailed information on how to contact *UCF Card Services* to obtain a new updated valid Student ID either on campus or via mail.

Many thanks for your patience during our membership process. Enjoy the variety of speakers and topics and all the other experiences and benefits that LIFE Membership provides. Become involved and participate as you deem appropriate for you.

You can contact us via email at

[life@ucf.edu](mailto:life@ucf.edu)

and welcome!

# FTU is Born

Diane Wink



In last month's *LIFetimes* there was a story about the first week of what was, then, FTU as presented in "*FTU?*"--the initial issue of the university's student newspaper. That university was very different from the UCF of today. The first FTU catalog, published in November 1967--a year before FTU opened-- had messages from Florida Governor, Claude D. Kirk, Chairman of the Florida Board of Regents, Chester H. Ferguson and UCF's first president, Dr. Charles Millican, all written in the future tense. Dr. Millican, working out of rented offices in downtown Orlando, told potential students that "As members of the charter class, you will help establish the traditions and the reputation of an entirely new university. A challenge and an opportunity such as this comes only to a relatively few, and we are proud that you will be an instrumental part of this important undertaking."

The large plot of land which was to become FTU was in a very undeveloped part of Orange county--so rural and hard to clearly identify that President Millican could not find it on his first trip there and Alafaya Trail was not yet paved. The campus plan included the Library/Learning Resources Center (the only building completed by the first day of class) and additional buildings for academic disciplines, which were to be clustered

together. Four student communities (called "villages") each had dorms, a village (student) center, an infirmary, and a physical education/recreation area would ring the campus. (Note: The villages never happened but the Apollo housing area, Jimmie Ferrel Student Services Commons and original health center (now housing UCF Counseling and Psychological Services) were part of the first village. The catalog had drawings, some

paired with photos of buildings emerging from the ground, which depicted the campus to come.



Five colleges were announced: Business Administration, Education, Engineering and Technology, Humanities and Social Sciences, and the College of Natural Sciences. In addition,

to their selected major, all students had to complete 74 quarter hours in courses from what was called the "Environmental Studies Program." This included courses in *Communications, Humanities, Biologic Sciences, Social Sciences, and Advanced Program Business and Technology*. All needed to complete four 2-credit courses, one from each college not of their major, each designed to help the student explore disciplines beyond their major. Dr. Millican's goal to make university education available to as many individuals as possible was reflected in plans to admit community college graduates to the upper division and to offer courses in the evening as well non-credit continuing education programs to be offered across the region including the space coast.

The initial catalogs included names of the college deans, all male, as were all other administrators and all but six of the initial faculty. (A female pronoun only appears once in the first catalogs, in a formal state-mandated section on residency status!) But, two current *LIFE at UCF* members, Dr. Beth Barnes and Dr. Marcy Kysilka were in that initial faculty cohort!

The first class included 1,948 students and included freshmen as well community college graduates who entered as juniors. Dr. Millican called on the them, as well as the founding faculty, staff and administrators to remember that “As members of the charter class, you will help establish the traditions and the reputation of an entirely new university. An opportunity and a responsibility such as this comes to only a few, but by working together we can make this a great university, one of which we can be proud.” To help insure this would happen, Dr. Millican was often seen walking the campus, stopping to talk with students, and visiting with faculty in their offices to check on how things were going and get input on what could be done to help ensure his goal of making FTU and its students “Reach for the stars.”

Interviews with early FTU faculty members reveal that President Millican was seeking the best of the

best faculty to help him create a university where the focus would truly be on the *Individual* and the accent would be on *Excellence* as students were encouraged to explore the world of possibilities for their future. Marcy Kysilka remembers how he walked the campus and sometimes just dropped into faculty offices (including hers) to touch base. Beth Barnes remembers his story of how he thought of the phrase “Reach for the stars” while flying on a starry night. LIFE founder, Dick Tucker and current LIFE president Jack McGuire both remember the emergence of early buildings built near the, then, multi-function library building. Those buildings were part of President Millican’s dream of a campus within a circle designed so students and faculty could walk from building to building without having to cross roads. While not exactly his plan, Gemini Boulevard now marks the outer ring of the main campus with the student center at its center.

For more on that first class and pictures of the early campus, check out the article, *UCF Looks Back on its First Day of Class* <https://www.ucf.edu/pegasus/ucf-looks-back-first-day-classes/> published in *Pegasus Magazine* in 2018.

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The definition of public relations is a strategic communication process that builds mutually beneficial relationships between the organization (LIFE) and our communities.

As the Public Relations Committee chair, I am honored to lead the effort to grow the awareness of LIFE among three main communities: Our host UCF, our members and our local community. Our goal is to create planned and sustained activities between these groups and raise awareness of LIFE.

Some of the activities include the newsletter, email blasts, website updates, face book page, LIFE brochure, the annual showcase, live streaming and other general contacts with the communities. As a member of LIFE, please familiarize yourself with the various ways.

After talking with many of the new LIFE members, the main way that most heard about the LIFE program was a one-on-one personal relationship contact with a current member. The member took the time to explain the program and invited them to join. I challenge all of you to be an ad hoc member of the PR committee by actively sharing info and inviting your friends to join us.

-Pete Bodnarik, PR Committee Chair



9th Annual Jerrell H. Shofner Lecture Series on Florida History and Culture

# Celebration, Reflection, and Anticipation:



## Volumes of THE FLORIDA HISTORICAL QUARTERLY

Join us for an insightful conversation with four esteemed journal editors on topics ranging from the role of the discipline of history in the 21st century, to the future of history journals, and the study of history in difficult times.



**Claire Strom**  
Professor of History  
Rollins College  
Past Editor, Agricultural History



**Craig Thompson Friend**  
Professor of History  
North Carolina State University  
Past Editor, Florida Historical Quarterly



**Randal Hall**  
William P. Hobby Professor of American History  
Rice University  
Editor, Journal of Southern History



**Alex Lichtenstein**  
Professor of History  
Indiana University  
Editor 2017-2021, American Historical Review

Monday, October 11, 2021 6:30pm  
University of Central Florida Morgridge International Reading Center  
4143 Andromeda Loop, Orlando, FL 32816  
Free and Open to the Public  
  
In-person and virtual registration at:  
<https://tinyurl.com/ns5wa3vj>



## Scholarship Committee Report

LIFE at UCF, through the activity of our Scholarship Committee, is fully engaged in supporting UCF undergraduate students. We have recently awarded three scholarships to UCF students whose areas of study include subjects related to gerontology aging and disability. The committee works closely with the College of Health Professions and Sciences, along with the university's Disability, Aging & Technology Cluster to identify potential scholarship recipients. LIFE's support of these scholars signals our hope and intent that the research they undertake will lead to improved quality of life for seniors now and in the future. Funding for these scholarships comes from donations to LIFE specifically identified for this purpose. Donations of any amount are appreciated and help build a strong scholarship fund that will allow LIFE to award additional scholarships in the future. If you would like to contribute to LIFE's scholarship fund you may do so at <https://life.ucf.edu/give-a-gift>.



## *Learning Institute for Elders at the University of Central Florida*

## Curriculum Committee report on upcoming classes!

The Curriculum Committee is working hard to line up engaging, informative and entertaining speakers for LIFE. While we're currently concentrating on filling out the calendar for spring semester 2022, we are always on the lookout for speakers who may be available at a time in the future. Every member of LIFE at UCF is a "deputized" member of the curriculum committee in that we look to you as well as our committee members to nominate speakers. There are forms at each LIFE lecture session, at the reception desk, for use in nominating a speaker. Please pick up one of these forms and tuck it away for that day when you come across someone you think would be a great addition to our program of presenters. Or you can nominate a speaker online at <https://life.ucf.edu/curriculum/suggest-a-speaker-members>. Not all nominees will be guaranteed a spot on the calendar, but please help the committee consider a variety of individuals by submitting a nomination. If you'd like to serve as a member of the curriculum committee, please let us hear from you. Or if you have questions concerning how or who you might nominate as a speaker please ask any of the curriculum committee members. You'll be able to identify them by the worried look on their faces...this is not an easy task.

-Rich Sloane, Committee Chair

**Where were you on 9/11/2001?  
Some recollections from the perspective of the LIFE program!**

**Dick Tucker**

Some events are so impactful, that one knows exactly where you were when you heard. Maybe watching the news; perhaps driving to work with the radio on. Some of you might have lived and/or worked in New York City or Washington, DC. The events are seared into our memories given the life-changing consequences of the event. This is the legacy of the unimaginable attacks on the two World Trade Centers and the Pentagon and crash of the plane in Pennsylvania. Over 20 years, most of our memories are connected to the horrible tragedies at the World Trade Center, and the extent of the damage and unconceivable fatalities and injuries.

As a member of LIFE at UCF attending class that Tuesday morning 20 years ago, memories of the events at the World Trade Center and at LIFE, remain vivid. As it is now, classes were on Tuesday morning. Most members had taken a seat in the Pegasus Ballroom, others, were still in the lobby. Those in the ballroom had silenced phones; members, still in the lobby, had not. Suddenly there was a buzz of multiple conversations when members learned that a large plane had flown into the World Trade Center.

On that morning, the program was a panel discussion/presentation by senior members of the Police Departments from Orange and Seminole counties, Orlando, and of course, UCF. Some of that discussion focused on the changes that had taken place in the role of the police and the relationship with the communities that they served. 20-25 minutes into the program, you could see that members of the panels were receiving messages. There was also some stirring among the LIFE members, who either had not muted their phones, or were able to get silent messages. The whispering in the audience became more noticeable. The presenters continued with the program, but when we got to the part for Q&A, they announced that they had to leave because another plane had explosively hit the World Trade Center, making it clear that we were being attacked. All the audience now knew about this life-changing event.

The doors opened for the break and the reaction to the news was being shared with horror and disbelief by the members. As they moved down the corridor to the atrium, they could see TV sets being set up in the atrium. I saw some students speaking to LIFE members and we all realized that this was a societal life-changing event, especially for those whose had spent their entire lives in the U.S. I heard a number of LIFE members refer to the students as "being in shock", as we all were. But for young UCF students, this was especially traumatic. A number of our members tried to console them. As our members talked, it was clear that the U.S.-raised students were experiencing the first major life-changing event of their lives. Classes had taught the horrors of war, but few of these students were directly affected unless family members had served in the War and/or been killed or seriously wounded. This was the first attack on American soil in their lives.

Many of our LIFE members had served in WWII and/or the Korean War, or Vietnam, or some even in the Gulf conflicts. Some were retired senior military officers who had experienced the horrors of war. All of us knew the history of Pearl Harbor and many were alive when it happened.

While very few members from that fateful day still participate in LIFE, those of us who were here on September 11, 2001 will never forget our connection to 9-11. Wherever you were on September 11, 2001 a day we will never forget.

**TWO ways that LIFE members  
can GIVE BACK to the Local Community**



**Knights Helping Knights Pantry  
FOOD DRIVE is one way  
LIFE members  
can give back to the UCF community.**

**Mark Tuesday, October 12 on your calendar.  
That is the date for our Fall drive.**

We picked this date to coincide with our speaker, Karen Broussard from Second Harvest Food Bank.

And by the way, Eli Valentin, who was the manager of the KHK pantry graduated in June and is now working at Second Harvest, continuing his good work in the community.

The pantry is a vital resource for the students. Please read about its history and the benefits it provides to the students on our [LIFE.UCF.EDU](http://LIFE.UCF.EDU) website.

Read about what foods are needed and how writing a donation check expands the pantry's purchasing power.

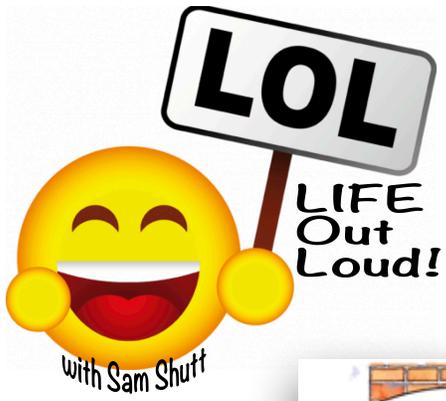
**Your donations make a difference!**

**Bring your donations, food and/or check, to LIFE on October 12.**

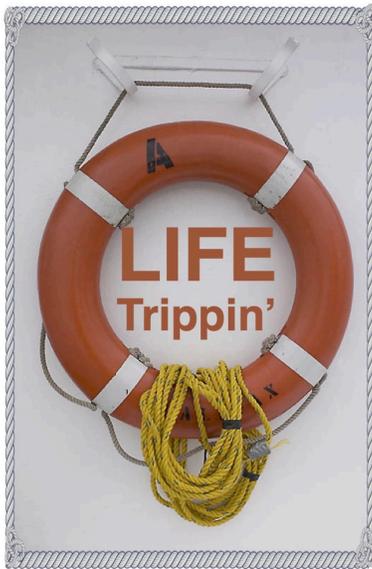


Your **LIFE Field Trippin' Committee**  
has scheduled a Community Service Day at the  
**Second Harvest Food Bank on Mercy Avenue in Orlando**  
**on October 21.**

See the warehouse and learn how this wonderful resource helps those in need in our community, first hand. We will have a three hour session, sorting and packing boxes with donated food. Watch your e-blasts for information and sign-up information.



September 2021



LIFE members are ready to get out! When the first Field Trippin' registration went "live," 40 of you signed up in the first 15 minutes, filling, not only the 20 registration slots, but the 20 wait-listed ones, too. We quickly contacted the Hitt Library to request a second trip. Luckily, they were able to accommodate us. The second date was filled with the "wait-listed" group. WOW!

The committee has already planned the first Community Service event which will be packaging donated goods at the **Second Harvest Food Bank on October 21**. Watch your e-blasts for information and registration.

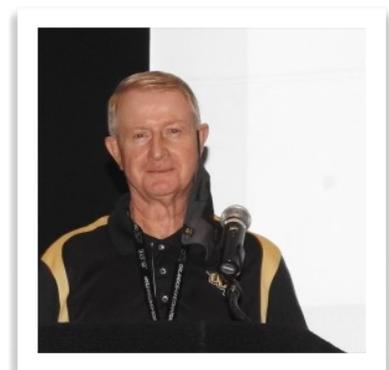
Currently, we are attempting to work out details for a possible private tour of the **Stetson Mansion** at 5:30pm on **November 8th** to see the Christmas decorations. This will be our first Trippin' that is a paid admittance with an approximate cost of \$45 for the 60-70 minute tour. If you are interested in attending, please send an email to [agorgail@gmail.com](mailto:agorgail@gmail.com) with the subject, "Stetson Mansion."

Mark your calendars, **January 13th**, in the New Year. We are confirmed for a Wonderful Field Trippin' to **Leu Gardens!**

**Sept. 22; UCF Hitt Library**  
**Sept. 23; UCF Hitt Library**  
**Oct. 21; Second Harvest Food Bank**  
**Nov. 8; Stetson Mansion Private Tour**  
**Jan. 13; Leu Gardens Private Tour**

## LIFE is back!

First class, August 31, 2021



**LIFE President  
Jack McGuire**

## **LIFE Curriculum Committee Annual Report; fall 2020-spring 2021 Submitted by Jack McGuire, former committee chair**

The Curriculum Committee is extremely proud of our LIFE offerings during the tumultuous 2020-2021 year when we offered the entire year's curriculum online. The LIFE Partnership Agreement with UCF and LIFE's Strategic Plan outline the primary mission and goals of the Curriculum Committee.

These include 3 primary directives:

1. Offer a broad-base, diverse set of programs for the membership;
2. Offer at least 50% of the programs utilizing UCF Faculty; and
3. Provide an opportunity for members to evaluate the programs.

The established criteria for defining "Broad and Diverse" is that at least 10 distinct program content categories will be represented for each of the Fall and Spring terms with no program category represented more than 4 times. For Fall 2020, 13 distinct program categories were represented across 24 presentations. For Spring 2021, 20 distinct program categories were represented across 28 presentations. During the Fall term, one content category, "History" was represented 5 times, but presentations represented a wide range of topics from local history [Jones H.S.], to Florida History [Steamboating on the St. Johns], to more traditional topics like the Dred Scott Case and Alexander Hamilton. Figure 1, below, shows the distribution of program topic categories for 2020-2021.

For the 52 programs across the Fall and Spring terms, 32 were presented by UCF Faculty and Senior Staff [e.g., UCF Athletics Director]. LIFE members were given the opportunity to evaluate every speaker by completing an online evaluation tool emailed following each session. We calculate two criterion measures from the 5 evaluation questions posed on the evaluation tool: "Total Enjoyment," and "Total Value." Each measure should equal or exceed 70% for both the Fall and Spring sessions. The average Total Enjoyment rating for Fall 2020 was 86.7%, and for Spring 2021 it was 85.3%. For 24 of the 52 total presentations, the average Enjoyment rating was equal to or exceeded 90%! The average Total Value rating for Fall 2020 was 92.3%, and for Spring 2021 it was 90.1%. Thirty-eight of the 52 total presentations had Total Value ratings which equaled or exceeded 90%!

The Curriculum Committee actively uses the evaluation data in helping to select future speakers, especially those we want to present to LIFE again. The committee is hard at work already in putting together the program of speakers for Spring 2022. Your help and feedback are greatly appreciated.

**Please complete the Speaker Evaluation opportunity after each session.**

**See distribution chart on following page**

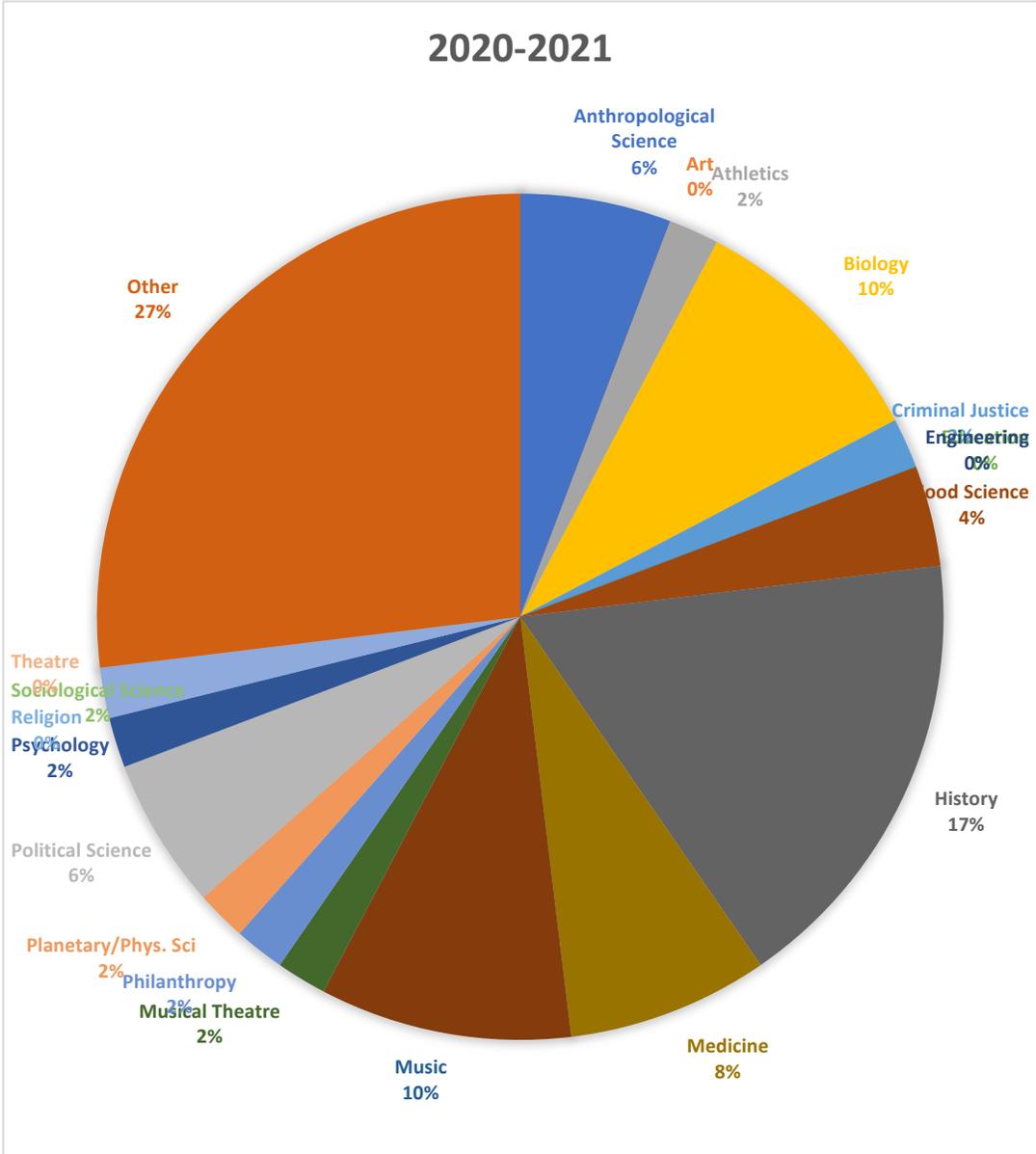


Fig. 1

**Distribution of Presentation Topics for Fall and Spring 2020-2021**

**Summary of "Other" Category**

**Fall 2020:**

1. WMFE
2. Central Florida Community Arts
3. COVID and Tourism
4. Sports Diversity and Athlete Activism

**Spring 2021:**

1. Florida State Parks
2. Global-Hollings Center
3. Global-US Agency for International Development
4. Global-UCF/Puerto Rico Research Hub
5. Orlando to Sustainable City of the Future
6. Rock Images of the SW
7. Wildland Fire Fighting
8. Guardian Ad Litem
9. So Much Traffic
10. Laughter Yoga