

# Women's Club at UCF, Inc

## Newsletter

Winter 2018

### From Our President

Home of the National Champions! What a great ride! I have enjoyed the incredible team spirit found among our university community. UCF has definitely made a name for itself. It is an amazing and exciting educational environment.

As we move into the golden anniversary of the Women's Club, the Board and Executive Committee would like to thank each of you for making 2017 a wonderful year. We enjoyed two wonderful luncheons with outstanding, inspirational speakers, Dr. Pamela "Sissi" Carroll and Coach Katie Abrahamson-Henderson, a beautiful, relaxing holiday tea hosted by Mrs. Hitt, a fun cookie exchange with a guest appearance by UCF Jazz Professor, Jeff Rupert, and fellow faculty jazz member, Richard Drexler, and many exciting interest group activities. Thanks to everyone who made these events possible.

Our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration is on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. We hope you will join us to celebrate the many memories and great accomplishments of our club. Please read the article written by two of our fabulous past presidents, Dell Shadgett and Sarah Magann. Then make sure you RSVP by Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>.

The spring luncheon is scheduled for May 1<sup>st</sup>. Our speaker for this event will be Kay Rawlins, co-founder of Orlando City Soccer Club and President of Orlando City Foundation. Please save the date. It is going to be a memorable golden anniversary year!!!! Charge on!

Fondly,  
Teresa Riedel



### Important Dates

#### 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

March 2, 2018  
Tusawilla  
Country Club  
5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

#### Spring Luncheon Meeting

May 1, 2018  
Tusawilla  
Country Club  
11:30 am – 1:30 pm

Visit our website for more information

<http://womensclub.cos.ucf.edu/>

## A FESTIVE AND BITTERSWEET HOLIDAY TEA



**Mrs. Martha Hitt, our Honorary and gracious President, hosted her final Holiday Tea on December 5<sup>th</sup> at the Burnett House as UCF's First Lady.**

Dressed in our holiday best, we were joined with UCF Town & Gown members to support the Coalition for the Homeless and raise a teacup to Mrs. Martha Hitt, wishing her and her husband, Dr. John Hitt, well in their retirement.



"We cannot tell the precise moment when friendship is formed. As in filling a vessel drop by drop, there is at last a drop which makes it run over; so in a series of kindnesses there is at last one which makes the heart run over." -- Samuel Johnson



*"Thank you to our hostess Martha Hitt, and to everyone who helped to make our Holiday Tea such a wonderful event. We raised more than **\$5,460**. Your generosity was greatly appreciated!"*  
*-Teresa*

## ONE TASTY COOKIE EXCHANGE!



December 12th found the ladies of the Women's Club celebrating the holidays & sharing their collective confectionary expertise at the Annual Cookie Exchange, masterfully hosted once again by Jen Rupert and co-chaired by Ranetta Guinn.



As a special treat, Jen's husband, UCF Jazz Professor Jeff Rupert & fellow faculty jazz member, Richard Drexler, provided some fabulous musical entertainment.

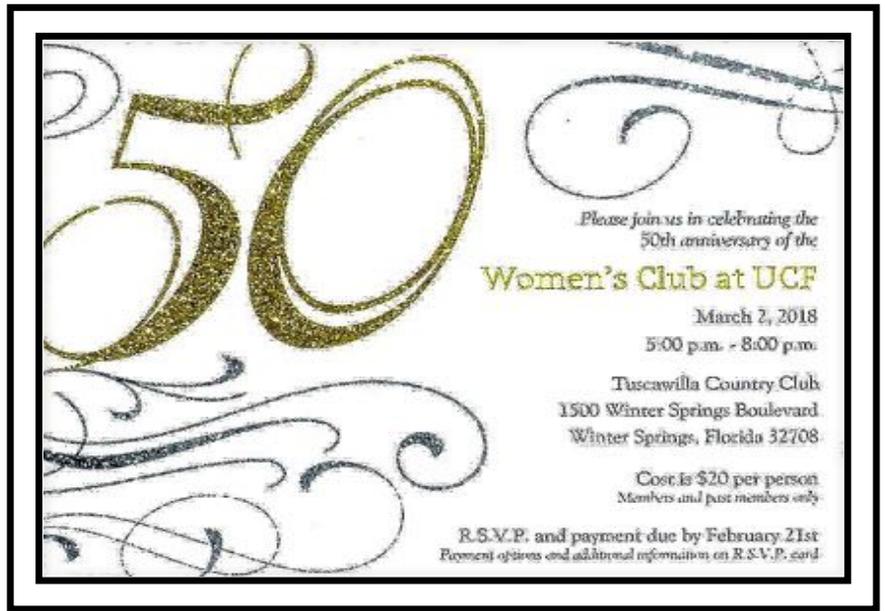


"There is nothing I would not do for those who are really my friends. I have no notion of loving people by halves, it is not my nature." — **Jane Austen, Northanger Abbey**

# **A GOLDEN MILESTONE**

**March 2, 2018  
5:00-8:00 pm**

**Women's Club at UCF  
Fiftieth Anniversary Gala  
Tusawilla Country Club**



Plans are underway for an elegant birthday party to celebrate our fiftieth anniversary. As the oldest continuously active university women's club in the nation, we have impressive accomplishments to celebrate. This will be an event for present and past members only.

Fifty years ago, under the leadership of FTU's Founding First Lady, Frances Millican, and a small group of enthusiastic women, this outstanding organization was born. The original philosophy was based on friendship and fun with the goal of providing scholarships for non-traditional women. It is most apparent that an organization has to change over time to reflect the thinking and the priorities of its members and its leadership. Originally, club membership was limited to the wives of professors and administrators. Eventually, the rules were changed to accept staff. Current membership is open to any person who is interested in promoting and supporting UCF. We never dreamed that we would be able to support four endowed scholarships (to include men) that allow us to award one graduate fellowship and three undergraduate scholarships annually. From the beginning, talented and creative leaders have been at the core of the success of the club. By participating in a variety of Interest Groups, members have formed lifelong friendships while supporting the university. We have searched our files and developed a PowerPoint Presentation illustrating "50 years of Memories." You won't want to miss all of those changing hairstyles!

**-By Dell Shadgett & Sarah Magann**



First President of FTU Women's Club, Ruth Jean Ostle, and Frances Millican, Founding First Lady of UCF.

## MEET OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

**MJ Burnettt** is a National Board Certified teacher. She is a retired media specialist, having worked at Edgewater High School for 29 years. She is enjoying several of our interest groups.

**Connie Collins** is HR director for the City of Oviedo. She received her Masters Degree from UCF. Linda Hennig invited her to Women's Club where she enjoys both theater and walking interest groups.

**Kathy Littlefield** retired after 42 years as a high school social studies teacher in Minnesota. She and her husband recently moved to Florida when he accepted the position as Director of the Nicholson School of Communication. She enjoys getting acquainted with central Florida, visiting grandchildren, and travelling.

**Basma Selim** hails from UCF, where she has been serving as Assistant Dean in the College of Medicine for ten years. She has two sons, one of which studies at UCF.

**Sophia Zachau**, originally from Taiwan, is recently retired from the accounting field. She worked for both GE and Lockheed-Martin. Now she is a marathon runner and picks her residence based on running (Seattle weather was not very accommodating!).

## GETTING TO KNOW YOU

On January 27<sup>th</sup>, Margaret Osteen hosted a New Members' Coffee at her home in Orlando. Some new members were able to meet board members and learn more about the club and interest groups. Zalpha Adams taught the finer points of our club website maneuvering, and Teresa organized some fun, get-to-know-each-other's-names games.



Sarah Magann showing off her paper plane building skills.

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT...

**Angela Bardwell-Owens**, a new member of Women's Club at UCF, is better known as one of our scholarship recipients! Angela had known about our club for a while, and then was invited to a luncheon. She liked what she heard and saw a group committed to women at UCF. That kind of language resonated with her, as she was a "non-traditional" student: a single parent raising two children alone.



Now as one of our scholarship recipients, Women's Club has confirmed that she is not alone, that she has overcome significant odds, and that growth can occur as a result. She very strongly feels that she is acknowledged as part of the solution and can be an ally for other women.

Indeed, the research in which she is interested in pursuing, "Women in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math)", takes the encouragement she has found in Women's Club to another level. Angela is currently working toward a master's degree in Modeling and Simulation Engineering and plans to continue to earn a doctorate degree. She expects her research to focus on the women currently studying STEM courses. She hopes to shed light on obstacles faced as well as successes.

Though she is obviously heavily involved in her studies, Angela sincerely wants to assist in Women's Club--perhaps serve as a resource to applicants seeking scholarships or to assist the scholarship selection committee. Her vision for our club is inspiring!

Angela's plans are on a brief medical hold at the moment. After a fall in October, a hospitalization, and back surgery in December resulting in spinal fluids being removed, she is under the care of a neurologist to heal, hopefully, with no more surprises. Her plans are to return to classes in the summer and to full program participation next fall.

Women's Club has a right to be proud of Angela! Her future looks bright, indeed!

**-By Margaret Osteen**

## INTEREST GROUPS

Interested in joining a group? Need calendar or group contact information?  
Check out our website at <https:womensclub.cos.ucf.edu/>

### ARMCHAIR TRAVELERS – Carol Pickler, Chair

#### Armchair Travelers Go Abroad!

The Armchair Travelers have enjoyed the experiences of several places around the world through the eyes of its members. This year's trips have been to South America, the Path of the Maya, China, Egypt, and Norway.



March will take everyone to Budapest and Amsterdam, while in April, to Syria. For the finale in May, each member is encouraged to share a memorable moment while traveling. This program will be accompanied by a potluck dinner. What an inquisitive, fun group of life-long learners who love to travel!

-Carol Pickler

## INTEREST GROUPS - Continued

### CULTURAL ARTS & WELLNESS – Janice Napolitano, Chair

The Cultural Arts and Wellness Interest Group attended a guided tour of the exhibit TOWARDS IMPRESSIONISM at the Cornell Museum on Rollins

campus. Paintings by artists Rousseau, Pissarro, Monet and Degas are on loan to the United States from Reims, France for the first time.



Docent Lauren Branzei provided fascinating information about the Barbizon and Impressionist Schools of Art and interesting facts about the artists. It is an exhibit not to be missed! After this wonderful tour, we enjoyed a delicious lunch at Armando's.  
-Janice Napolitano

### EVENING BOOKWORMS – Amy Harrison, Chair

Evening bookworms continues a tradition of good food, good books, and great discussions.

### GOLF – Darlene Bouley, Chair

Our group had a new experience this year by participating in a glow-in-the-dark tournament on December 1st at Casselberry Golf Club. A fun time was had by all! Our golf dates are every Thursday at 10:00 am, locations to be determined. Contact Darlene Bouley @ [dbouley5@gmail.com](mailto:dbouley5@gmail.com) for further information of interest.

## INTEREST GROUPS - Continued

### GREAT DECISIONS – Mary Meeker, Chair

January 29 marked the beginning of the 2018 study year for the Women's Club Interest Group Great Decisions. We meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month from about 1:00 – 3:00 to socialize a little and view a video from the 100-year-old organizing group, The Foreign Policy Association. We then discuss the reading from our magazine-sized text and our own research on the topics selected by the Association including things like the "Waning of Pax Americana," "Russia's foreign policy," "China's geopolitics" and 5 others. There are 17 of us (enough for a discussion even when some are absent) and we are learning a lot about US foreign policy and global issues.  
-Mary Meeker

### INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP GROUP – Teresita Leeson & Sigi Stockhammer, Co-Chairs

On **October 5, 2017** we visited the Farris and Foster's Chocolate Factory in Baldwin Park. Our workshop made us very good "chocolatiers". Afterwards we went to a nearby restaurant for lunch.



On **November 14, 2017** we attended the 9th annual International Breakfast at the UCF Pegasus Ballroom. As usual, the program was very interesting. Former US Ambassador to Oman, Gary Grappo, and former US Department of State Education and Youth Officer, Rebecca Grappo, were the keynote speakers.

## INTEREST GROUPS - Continued

### INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP GROUP (cont.)



On **January 18th**, our International Potluck was celebrated at the home of Dr. & Mrs. Michael Frumkin. After a delightful lunch, Sharon and Mike shared their life experience in Alaska.

-Teresita Leeson

"Each friend represents a world in us, a world possibly not born until they arrive, and it is only by this meeting that a new world is born." -- Anais Nin (1903-1977)

### MONDAY WALKERS – Beth Barnes, Chair

The Monday Walkers Interest Group had a fun day participating in the annual Florida Hospital Lady Track 5K. This event brings together women to celebrate women's health and fundraise.



## INTEREST GROUPS - Continued

### NEEDLEWORK - Judy Dziuban, Chair

Our Needlework Group welcomed three new members this year – Pat Pepler, Donna Albert, and Mary Middleton. We are delighted they joined us for a year of stitching, sharing project ideas, and good conversation.



### THE CAMPING GROUP is now the OUTDOOR ADVENTURES GROUP!

The Outdoor Adventures Interest Group meets bi-monthly to explore outdoors activities. No prior experience or skills are necessary to participate. All activities are provided at the beginner level. Please email Denice Breen at [DHBREEN@ATT.NET](mailto:DHBREEN@ATT.NET) to join the group.

Activities for 2018-2019 may include:

- Zoom Air Adventure Park @ Central Florida Zoo
- Airboat ride @ Black Hammock
- Segway tour @ Mt. Dora
- Archery @ Camp Mah-Kah-Wee
- Canoes, Kayaks & Pedal boats @ William E. and Mary Jo Davis Recreation Area on Lake Claire
- Boing Fun Center
- Tubing @ Kelly Park/Blue Springs State Park
- Snorkeling @ Wekiwa Springs State Park/Blue Springs State Park
- Fishing/Canoeing/Ferry/Museum/Nature Trail @ Hontoon Island State Park
- Outdoor Yoga @ Oviedo in the Park

“One’s life has value so long as one attributes value to the life of others, by means of love, friendship, and compassion.”  
–Simone de Beauvoir

## INTEREST GROUPS - Continued

### TAKE A HIKE – Mila Vodopyanov, Chair

*Wouldn't it be wonderful to have the time for everything that we love and need - for exercise, quality time with friends, to see the most beautiful spots in nature, and for learning about Central Florida - the place we all live in? How do we find the time for all of this? The answer is simple - join the Hiking Group and come on our outings! You will be surprised at how you can accomplish all of this during a hike and more. The outdoors will reward you with rosy cheeks, a bright smile, and a toned body. Sweet memories of sounds, smells, and magnificent views will keep coming back in your dreams. The members of our group are sharing the outdoors with each other, and every trip is, in some way, a high point of our life here.*



"Don't walk in front of me, I may not follow.  
Don't walk behind me, I may not lead.  
Walk beside me and be my friend."  
-Albert Camus



## INTEREST GROUPS - Continued

### TAKE A HIKE (cont.)



*This year we have continued to explore Seminole County trails with their spectacular river views and even a waterfall! On January 11<sup>th</sup>, we went on a guided tram-car tour around the Wetlands, one of Central Florida's jewels. We took an illuminating walking tour of historical downtown Orlando. Next, we are planning to do two hikes along the St. Johns River, to get educated at our own UCF Arboretum, and to visit the most comprehensive collection of tropical butterflies at the 100 year-old Museum of Natural History at UF in Gainesville.*

*We welcome all outdoor lovers to join us, but please keep in mind that Nature opens her treasure to those wearing good walking shoes!*

*- Mila Vodopyanov*



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### HAVE SOMETHING TO SHARE IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER?

If you have news or suggestions, please let me know at [Ruthie.Rieder@Gmail.com](mailto:Ruthie.Rieder@Gmail.com).  
Please identify as WC@UCF Newsletter in the "Subject"

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## INTEREST GROUPS - Continued

### THEATRE – Anna Habowski, Chair

The theater group met in December to see “It’s a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play” at the Shakespeare Theatre. This nostalgic production was enjoyed by all.



On February 1<sup>st</sup>, the theater group attended a production of “The Tale of the Allergist’s Wife” at the Mad Cow Theatre in downtown Orlando. Members enjoyed a meal at The Rusty Spoon before the play.



### UCF SPECTATOR SPORTS FANS – Merrell Bailey, Chair

UCF Spectator Sports Fans is planning a great 2018! Our first event of the year is the upcoming UCF vs. USF Women’s Basketball game on 2/18.

JOIN TOWN & GOWN & UCF SPECTATOR SPORTS in the CFE SUITE to CHEER ON THE KNIGHTS  
MEET & GREET WITH STEPHANIE FOLLETT, DIRECTOR OF WOMEN'S BASKETBALL OPERATIONS

BE THERE ON SUNDAY FEBRUARY 18!

# UCF vs. USF

DOORS OPEN 11AM SUITE FEATURES BEVERAGES & NACHO BAR

REGISTER AT [WWW.YOURCARINGLAWFIRM.COM/EVENTS](http://WWW.YOURCARINGLAWFIRM.COM/EVENTS) - LIMITED TO FIRST 20 REGISTERED

PRESENTED BY CENTRAL FLORIDA EDUCATORS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION



In March, we’ll gather for an early Saturday morning cheering on the UCF rowers at the annual Metro Cup, aboard Winter Park Boat Tour’s Pontoon Boats. If you would be interested in joining our wonderful group, and receiving invitations to our events, please email [Merrell@YourCaringLawFirm.com](mailto:Merrell@YourCaringLawFirm.com)

## SPECIAL EVENTS NOT TO MISS!

**Sunday February 18<sup>th</sup>**  
**UCF Knights Women's Basketball vs. USF**  
**Noon ET**  
**CFE Arena, Orlando, FL**

Come cheer on the Knights as they take on the Bulls of South Florida.  
**"GO KNIGHTS! CHARGE ON!!"**



### **UCF College of Sciences Distinguished Speaker Series 2018 Tusawilla Country Club**

The UCF College of Sciences Distinguished Speaker Series is back with faculty experts speaking on topics relevant to the natural, computational, social or behavioral sciences and the developments in their respective fields.

This year's 2018 series will be held monthly at Tusawilla Country Club at 6 p.m. until April 2018. Enjoy a wonderful evening with food, drink and intellectual stimulation.



- ❖ ***Is Orlando a coastal city?*** On **February 21**, Graham Worthy, Ph.D., UCF Pegasus Professor, Provosts Distinguished Professor in the UCF Department of Biology, will answer this question. Coastal is more than the outline of a state; it is up to 100 miles inland making Orlando a coastal city. Worthy will discuss why Orlando citizens should be concerned about coastal issues.
- ❖ On **March 21**, Nichole Lighthall, Ph.D., Assistant Professor in the UCF Department of Psychology, will present ***A Peek Inside the Adaptable Aging Brain***. Her talk will highlight new discoveries in neuroscience of aging and provide a better understanding of the possibilities and limitations of the aging brain.
- ❖ The final speaker, Adrienne Dove, Ph.D., Assistant Professor in the UCF Department of Physics, will present ***CubeSats: Big Science in Tiny Spacecraft***, on **April 18**. CubeSats are miniaturized satellites that are deployed into orbits around the Earth and are designed to fly solo or along with larger missions throughout the solar systems. Her talk will highlight examples of CubeSats for Earth and planetary science, and the two CubeSats UCF is developing for 2018.

## SPECIAL EVENTS NOT TO MISS - Continued



### UCF CELEBRATES THE ARTS 2018 April 6-14 Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts



**UCF Celebrates the Arts** is an annual showcase featuring an interactive exhibition of student artworks in the areas of Visual and Performing Arts. In addition to the products and performances of the arts units, each year there are projects that demonstrate the arts vital role in innovation, communication and fostering creativity across all disciplines. The festival provides a platform to share with Orlando and the Central Florida region the collaboration that occurs among all the units at the University of Central Florida and also with our community partners. UCF's commitment to interdisciplinary activities and partnerships is well established and the festival celebrates these relationships as it demonstrates the university's strong positive impact in Central Florida and beyond.

**Box Office: 407-823-1500**  
Suggestions and General  
Questions: Heather Gibson  
407-823-5095

For more information, visit  
<http://arts.cah.ucf.edu>

