

**GO FOR
LAUNCH**
THE CAMPAIGN FOR UCF'S NEXT MISSION

CASE FOR SUPPORT



UCF

Libraries

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

IGNITE OUR
CURIOSITY



FUEL OUR FUTURE

You remember us. UCF Libraries have been your sanctuary for quiet study, a hub for research and academic support and a haven for intellectual exploration. As the university's first academic building, the John C. Hitt Library is still the bridge between UCF's humble origins and its stellar future.

But we are not just some blast from the past. UCF Libraries continue to evolve with the needs of the campus. Students wanted more study space and more opportunities for collaboration. Faculty wanted more innovative technology and stronger research collections. On every horizon, we have delivered. History is not only conserved at UCF Libraries – it is made.

The UCF Libraries remain your go-to place to discover, innovate, connect and grow. Now, thanks to your decision to support our libraries' future, we can continue to support faculty excellence and student success for generations to come.

We invite you to join us as we embark on a historic mission. Go for Launch is more than a UCF philanthropic campaign – it is our commitment to shape what is possible. Help be the engine that propels our library toward tomorrow. Invest as we prepare for liftoff. The trajectory is clear: innovation, impact and opportunity. Our future. Your move.





WAYS TO GIVE

From scholarships to academic support and preservation of rare collections, every gift to UCF Libraries provides a service, a resource or a space that directly affects the success of one of our students, faculty or staff. Here are a few of the ways your philanthropy fosters a culture of learning and innovation.

Financial Gifts to the Libraries help to ensure our long-term sustainability and the changing needs of students, faculty and the UCF community are met.

Endowments help to acquire, preserve and provide access to special collections, manuscripts and digital resources or funds for technology upgrades, staff positions, student internships and specialized study spaces.

Naming Opportunities enable donors to leave a legacy by naming library spaces, study rooms or even specific items like books.

Scholarships provide tuition support for students and professional development opportunities for library staff.

Events and Outreach support builds engagement through library events, such as speaker series, awards programs and community activities.

Planned Gifts, such as bequests, beneficiary designations and charitable trusts, provide long-term, stable funding and unique assets that sustain the Libraries' mission.



HIDDEN GEMS

UCF has had an extensive line of mascots, both official and unofficial, but Vincent "Vinnie" the Vulture has a special space within the library's University Archives.

Vinnie first came about in 1969 as an alternative to Florida Technological University's first mascot, Citronaut. Much of Vinnie's origin story is murky. However, according to university lore, there was a turkey vulture that was particularly friendly and active on campus, having been fed by students for a period of time. "Vinnie," as he was named, eventually became a proposed mascot, and had a strong group of supporters. Students even started "Vinnie the Vulture" fan clubs and dedicated creative projects to him.

The real Vinnie eventually died, and a group of students had him taxidermized to preserve him in history. The taxidermy was presented to University President Charles Millican who, in turn, deemed Vincent a fantastic piece of university history and permitted him to stay on campus. He now resides here in the Special Collections & University Archives department at the John C. Hilt Library. If you're lucky, you might be able to spot him in the Reading Room!



SHHHHHH ... RENOVATIONS TO THE HITT LIBRARY'S FOURTH FLOOR ADDED 1,100 SEATS IN A VARIETY OF LAYOUTS TO SUPPORT FOCUSED WORK, INCLUDING A DESIGNATED SILENT STUDY ROOM WITH 140 SEATS FOR THOSE WHO REQUIRE A COMPLETELY NOISE-FREE ENVIRONMENT AND 28 SMALLER STUDY ROOMS FOR GROUP PROJECTS.

OUR CAMPAIGN PRIORITIES



COLLECTION ENDOWMENTS

Collection endowments strengthen library resources in specific disciplinary areas, ensuring sustained access to high-quality materials that support teaching, learning and research. Your support provides long-term stability for building and preserving collections that reflect enduring research and curriculum needs.



EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING PROGRAM

Establishing a library-based experiential learning program allows students from all disciplines the chance to get hands-on experience applying research, digital literacy and critical thinking skills in real-world contexts. Your support expands access to high-impact learning that prepares students for academic success and meaningful careers.



NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

From small group study rooms to the 235-seat Reading Room, there are multiple opportunities for you to leave your legacy at the Hitt Library. Naming a room ensures these highly utilized spaces are still contemporary and equipped with the most up-to-date technology available.



UNIVERSITY ARCHIVIST

While UCF strives for a better tomorrow, our University Archives also document and preserve our past. Endowing a university archivist faculty position ensures that our archivists are able to continue curating physical and digital archival collections, performing community outreach and working with other colleges and units to gather and preserve UCF history as it happens.



UNIVERSITY PRESS

Launching the University of Central Florida Press allows us to publish books on Central Florida's history and culture, as well as endow critical expert staff. A university press is a finger on the pulse of the latest scholarly research and general interest, all accessible to faculty, students and the wider community.



WHY GIVING MATTERS



Safeguarding Our History

The University Archives are a treasure trove of UCF history, and Arielle Petrovich, University Archivist, leads the charge for gathering and maintaining the massive collection. From administrative reports and records of student organizations to vintage memorabilia, the University Archives ensure that the story of UCF will live on in perpetuity.

"As University Archivist, I try to capture and preserve all of UCF's history, from its early beginnings as FTU (Florida Technological University) to the present day," says Arielle. **"The records we save today shape UCF's story tomorrow, so protecting them is essential to safeguarding our legacy."**



Scholarship Rewards Student

Paying for college and related expenses are top of mind for students like **Sarah Taha**, who has become somewhat of an expert in open education resources. In her role as a student assistant in the Libraries' Document Delivery & Resource Management department, the data science and statistics major applies data analysis and programming skills to track and optimize these no-cost or low-cost learning materials for her classmates and faculty. Her library service has paid off in more than textbook savings.

"Winning two major scholarships because of my impact in the library is exhilarating," says Sarah, who was awarded both the June S. Stillman Endowed Memorial Scholarship and the Lois Holt Scholarship. **"While data science and statistics aren't traditional fields for librarians, our university gave me an opportunity to utilize a rapidly developing technology and discover how I could support our library."**

**DID YOU
KNOW?**

IN FEBRUARY 2026, THE HITT LIBRARY OPENED OUR DIGITAL EXPLORATION CENTER, A 6,000-SQUARE-FOOT SPACE FOR IMMERSIVE TECHNOLOGIES, DIGITAL SCHOLARSHIP AND CREATIVE PRODUCTION. WE EMPOWER STUDENTS BY PROVIDING THE TECHNOLOGY TO PRODUCE PODCASTS AND 3D/VR CONTENT AND ACCESS TO HIGH PERFORMANCE WORKSTATIONS, HANDS-ON WORKSHOPS AND EXPERT CONSULTATION ON DIGITAL TOOLS AND RESEARCH.

PRESERVING HISTORY



PHOTO OF PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON'S VISIT TO WALT DISNEY WORLD, ONE OBJECT FROM OUR WORLD-PREMIERE TRAVEL AND TOURISM COLLECTION.



PAINTING BY HAROLD NEWTON, ONE OF 638 ARTWORKS IN OUR CENTRAL FLORIDA AND CARIBBEAN COLLECTIONS.



VARIOUS MISSION PATCHES, ONE PIECE OF OUR EXPANSIVE AEROSPACE INDUSTRY COLLECTION.

UCF LIBRARIES BY NUMBERS (2024-2025)

17,000

AVERAGE
DAILY VISITORS

122,179

TECHNOLOGY
ITEMS LOANED

72

GROUP STUDY
ROOMS

3,057

TOTAL NUMBER
OF SEATS

\$6,659,250

TOTAL TEXTBOOK SAVINGS

137,950

STUDY ROOM HOURS
BOOKED

For more information, contact:

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**Advancement
and Partnerships**