

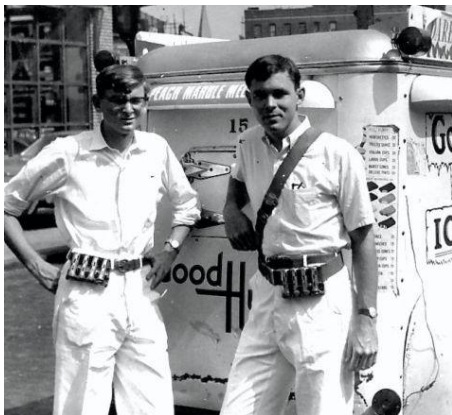
# CLOAF NEWS

## Newsletter of the CLO Alumni Foundation

Fall, 2009

### A Quiz: Who are these People?

(Answers on last page)



## Alumni Reunion, Oct. 17

It's time again for some good barbecue! The fourth annual Alumni Reunion will be held at the CLO house on Saturday, October 17, the day of the UF vs. Arkansas game. Last year we scheduled the reunion on Homecoming Weekend, and found that many alumni preferred that weekend to other game weekends. The CLO students also have expressed a preference for that day. As usual, we expect to have alumni from the 1940's to the present, from all over the United States, Canada, and elsewhere.

The schedule of reunion activities will be similar to that of past gatherings. We will gather in the CLO dining room at about 9:30 for coffee, doughnuts, juice, and socializing. Vince Assini (CLO 68-72), the Executive Director of our CLO Alumni Foundation, will bring us up to date on CLOAF, and the CLO officers will give us an update on the progress of CLO over the past year.

If the game is early, the students will provide us with a great meal after the game – or before, if the game is later in the day. A brief CLOAF business meeting will be held after lunch. Other than that meeting, which will last about an hour, the main agenda is to meet and greet old friends, and mingle with the CLO members. Even if you do not plan to attend the game, please come to the reunion. Many alumni have indicated that they just want to sit around, tell tales, and reminisce about times past -- before, during and after the game. If you want to enjoy the meal, please send email to [clo1931@gmail.com](mailto:clo1931@gmail.com) to let them know how many to plan for.

Please support CLO and the CLO Alumni Foundation by attending the gathering. If you park at CLO, please pay the students whatever you can spare. Current price at some nearby lots is \$50. As in our time, CLO needs the cash.

## Visit the CLOAF Website!

Please go to the CLOAF website and browse around a bit. The URL for the site is [www.cloalumni.org](http://www.cloalumni.org), and there are some interesting things to be seen there.

All alumni are urged to go to the Alumni Information link (far right on the navigation bar) and bring our records up to date. We do not publish your email address, your postal address, or your telephone number. We do occasionally release these items if a few (2 or 3) are requested by another member of CLOAF, but we won't ever sell them to spammers!

## A Message from the CEO



Compared to the turmoil of 2006 when the University of Florida attempted to close CLO, things are pretty quiet at CLO. A significant event in the minds of many alumni was CLO's reversion to its original name, CO-OPERATIVE LIVING ORGANIZATION, INC. Current members and alumni alike approve of the change, which is intended to better emphasize the principle of working together as a community of residents.

As is always the case with organizations with continual turnover of residents and student management, there are good times and less good times, depending on how things are measured. CLO has been fortunate in that it has always had residents who step up to the plate and address whatever challenge is currently facing the organization, whether it be major infrastructure repairs, a surplus of "dead beat" residents, or low occupancy.

Right now, the residents are struggling with low occupancy caused by both the surplus of affordable apartments in Gainesville, and the delay in recruitment activity last spring due to health problems of the former recruitment officer. Things looked bleak as the summer term started, but the residents rallied and have been able to fill 55 of the available 80 beds. This is close enough to break-even so that the Alumni Foundation will probably not need to step in and help cover normal operating expenses.

The Alumni Foundation currently has approximately \$17,000 in its coffers and is working with the residents to decide how we can help them in fixing the roof (again!) and start to replace the windows. Last October, the Foundation donated \$11,700 to repair the roof over the kitchen, however now the roofs over the living wings need additional work. Efforts are being made to apply for grants available to implement energy efficient solutions to these and other infrastructure issues.

The current economic downturn has also had an impact on contributions to the Foundation by CLO alumni. Contributions have been going steadily downhill since the establishment of the Alumni Foundation from a high of \$149,000 in 2006 to \$13,000 for 2008. The year-to-date total for 2009 is a little over \$6,000 with less than 3 more months to go, and half of that sum came from just 2 alumni.

All contributions to the CLO Alumni Foundation are tax deductible (we are a 501(c)(3) corporation and recognized by the IRS) and we are eligible to participate in most employer matching contribution programs. Checks should be made payable to the **CLO Alumni Foundation**, and mailed to 4321 Dewey Dr., New Port Richey, FL 34652.

-- Vince Assini

## From CLO's President

Greetings to all Alumni! I would like to briefly introduce myself and then give a report of the current state and future direction of CLO. My name is John Iacona, and I am a first year masters student in Computer Engineering. I originally hail from Palm Bay FL but I have been in Gainesville for the past four years, with three of those years here at CLO.

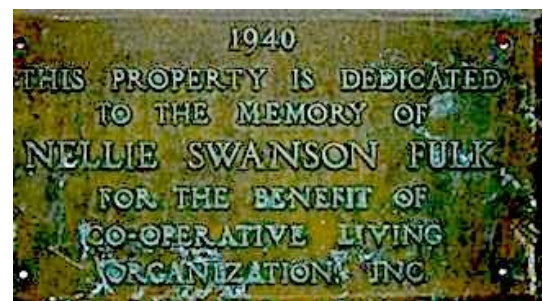
As many of you know, CLO has been going through a little bit of a rough spot. When I came into office in May, our occupancy numbers were extremely low. However, thanks to an amazing effort by many CLOnes, we were able to reach a sustainable population of around 55 this fall. Apart from lower than usual numbers, we are in a great position to move forward. We have been getting excellent fire safety ratings consistently, we have amazing food, and we have a good group of new members.

We are not, however, going to be complacent. I am acutely aware that this is the third year in a row where we have lost more than 10% of our population and I have no intention of letting that trend continue. I have a three point plan to reverse this trend and have a house of at least 70 by next fall and have a waiting list after that.

First and foremost, we will maintain strong recruitment activity throughout the year. Second, we will build a more committed, long term membership by fostering a sense of community and involvement. Third, we will seek outside funding in the form of grants and rebates in order to make structural and efficiency improvements to the CLO buildings.

I want to personally thank all of the dedicated alumni for continuing to give us support and guidance. I look forward to working with all of you in the future, to make sure that CLO thrives and fulfills its mission.

-- John Iacona



Nellie Swanson Fulk Memorial Plaque

# Communications from CLOAF Members

The paragraphs below were submitted by members of the CLOAF board. We hope to have a couple of newsletters a year in the future, so if you have something to say to the membership please forward it to Roger Johnson, our communications officer. You can reach him at [roger@newswise.com](mailto:roger@newswise.com).



I was going through old papers recently and came across the only letter to my mother that she saved from my college days. In it, I was describing the usual difficulties and fears of being a freshman at a large university as well as the financial difficulties. I recited that I had met another student by the name of Steve Cheeseman. We met through student government doings. He told me about the CLO, and the rest is history, as they say.

I moved from Tolbert Hall to the CLO at the beginning of the Fall Term, 1965. I was there until I graduated in the Spring, 1968. My brother John joined me at the CLO in the Fall, 1967 and stayed for four years. My brothers Will and Jimmy followed. There was a Shepherd at the CLO for almost ten years.

Sometimes one does not understand or appreciate the value of a thing or an experience until after the fact. I made good friends at CLO. Now, years later, a good number of us have come back together as members of the CLO Alumni

Foundation to provide guidance when necessary to the current students. These include Vince Assini, Harold Barnett, Bob Dinger, Roger Johnson, Bob Peele, Jim Swanson and Joe Waldron. It has also been a pleasure to meet members from earlier generations including Henry Motes, CLO President in 1940 when Professor Fulk gave the CLO premises to the CLO; Charlie Hilton, a successful lawyer and businessman from Panama City who was President of the CLO in 1952-1953; J.D. Grinstead, CLO purchasing agent in the 1954-55 era; and Walter Tarr, CLO approx 1962-1974, who is probably almost single handedly responsible for the necessary transition to new quarters in the early 1970's – just to name a few.

CLO recently passed its 75<sup>th</sup> birthday. The college world, just like the rest of the world, is more complicated now. However, CLO remains the same solely student run co-op as it has in the past. So far as we know, it is the only one. I hope that those of you receiving this letter will find it fit to contribute your time, money or talent to this task.

-- Frank Shepherd  
Honorary CLOAF Chairman

Hello to all! Some of you know me but, of course, the most do not. However, there are common threads that unite us all -- attendance at the University of Florida, and membership in CLO.

My attendance at CLO from 1961-1965 was, without a doubt, memorable, character building (of which I needed a lot), and a positive influence on my later life. When I graduated, my interest in CLO moved into the background, fondly remembered but never forgotten. Years passed, times changed, and we all got older.

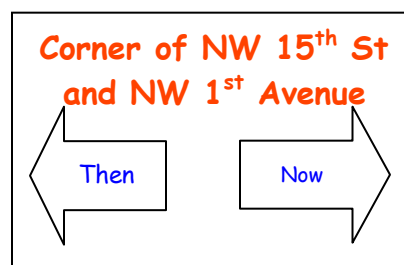
However, when CLO's crisis arose in 2006 I, like many of you, suddenly found a renewed sense of pride, recalled fond memories, and felt a desire to help. So here we are, wherever

you are, as we strive to help CLO, and continue the dream of Dr. Fulk.

As each generation passes through the doors of CLO, new challenges arise. They require new input to keep moving forward. I urge each of you to get involved at whatever level you can, so that we can keep CLO moving forward for the benefit of future members.

On a more personal note to those of you who can come to Gainesville on October 17, please do so. I will be there, and would like to cuss and discuss the past, the present, and the future.

-- Bob Dinger  
Board Member



## What can you do to help CLO and CLOAF?



It has been more than 50 years since I first walked onto the property at 117 NW 15<sup>th</sup> Street in Gainesville, ready to begin my studies at the University of Florida. During the five years that I lived at CLO, I found a “home away from home” that provided not only a place to stay and meals to eat, but a place to grow – and grow up. I learned a lot about life from the many friends I made there. I believe that if CLO had not been available to me, I would never have completed the University.

The events of early 2006, when an attempt was made to “grab” the property of CLO, came as an insult to me and to many former CLO members. The establishment of the CLO Alumni Foundation and its recognition as Trustee of the property appeared to be an excellent way to assure that the benefits of cooperative living would continue to be available to students at the University of Florida. After nearly four years, however, that assurance doesn’t look as certain as it once did.

I am writing this article to encourage you to assist the CLO Alumni Foundation (CLOAF) in its stated mission, which is “to ensure that the members of the CLO through its Officers and Board maintain a **clean** and **safe** residence for University of Florida students in need of financial assistance who wish to participate in a cooperative living environment that is **financially sound** and self-perpetuating.” CLOAF has pursued this mission with only minimal involvement in the daily operation of CLO, believing that the officers and board of CLO are capable and competent to run the organization’s affairs.

Through the generous contributions of many of its members, CLOAF has provided financial support for maintenance and improvement of the physical facilities. Members who live closer to Gainesville have advised CLO’s officers and board of directors in how to work with University administrators, vendors and regulatory agencies, and in how to carry out routine administrative duties relating to CLO’s daily operations. Occasionally, they have provided some muscle to help carry out maintenance tasks.

However, the vast majority of CLO Alumni live quite far away from Gainesville. If you are inclined to help CLOAF in its stated mission, what are some things that you can do?

1. **Contribute money.** The present state of our economy makes this option less than desirable, perhaps. Many Alumni are retired on fixed incomes; others may have found it difficult to find and maintain desirable employment. However, there are more than **three thousand** CLO Alumni in the world, and if each of them would donate the \$50 per year for voting membership in CLOAF, we could easily have sufficient funds to sustain our support of CLO. Several alumni have made arrangements with their financial institutions to remit a fairly small amount monthly, which adds up nicely over a year’s time. As an example, just \$10 per month would provide \$120 per year. If you are a regular donor to the University of Florida Foundation, you might consider donating 10% of that amount to CLOAF. We are a 501(c)(3) corporation, and donations are deductible from federal income taxes. CLOAF will provide a receipt to substantiate your donation.

2. **Contribute time.** There are numerous opportunities to contribute time to CLOAF. One of those is simply to get involved with the Foundation. Committee service, project organization, service on the Board of Directors, and simply suggesting ways that CLOAF can improve its operation are all needed. We have scheduled an “Alumni Reunion” at least once a year, and your appearance at these events is welcome – and it is fun! We hope to publish a newsletter at least once a year, and article submissions would be welcomed.

3. **Mentoring students.** Those who live near enough to do so can offer assistance to CLO members in career guidance, organizational operation, and simply how to get along well in an institution of 50,000 (or so) students.

Your involvement in CLOAF and its activities is solicited – and it is needed to make sure that students with financial needs can have a safe, clean, and comfortable residence.

PLEASE HELP! And plan to stop by the CLO house for conversation and refreshment on Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>.

-- Jim Swanson  
CLOAF Webmaster



## What's possible for this CLO alumni community?



We formed the CLO Alumni Foundation (CLOAF) four years ago to rescue CLO from almost certain dissolution. Since then we've made great progress in renewing CLO's position as one of the few remaining student-operated co-op houses in the nation. That progress includes the Alumni Foundation's appointment by the court as Trustee of CLO, the establishment of an ongoing program to support the CLO, and the development of a vital CLO alumni community of roughly 2500 individuals – some more active and involved than others. But quite frankly we're at a bit of a loss as to where to go from here.

We're clear that the CLOAF mission is to "ensure that the members of the CLO through its officers and board maintain a clean and safe residence for University of Florida students in need of financial assistance who wish to participate in a cooperative living environment that is financially sound and self-perpetuating."

But what about our alumni membership? What's **our** vision? CLOAF's vision for CLO is that it is a well-organized, fully-funded, student-managed residence for students. We'd like CLOAF always to have an active and supportive membership to maintain its vision for CLO. It provides a mechanism for CLO alumni to maintain lifelong friendships; however, our primary focus is on our vision for CLO. So far, this effort has been maintained by a relatively small cadre of alumni who have carried most of the load.

As Communications Officer, I've accepted the job of finding and connecting with the membership. I have made more than 500 phone calls to CLO alumni, and I've constructed a profile of CLOAF, "by the numbers":

- 2650 CLO alumni in our directory
- 239 reported as deceased
- 127 who, when found, wanted no further communication
- 564 with e-mail addresses who receive occasional messages about CLOAF activities
- 1675 with postal mailing addresses
- 155 who have made a donation to save CLO
- 130 on the Facebook CLO alumni group.
- 46 outside of USA
- 8 CLOAF board members (who are the people who were most actively involved in keeping CLO alive through founding CLOAF and obtaining its appointment as Trustee of CLO in 2006).

So here's the question: how do we sustain our cause? There are two major issues:

1. replenishing the leadership of CLOAF, i.e. maintaining a Board of Directors composed of involved, committed members
2. maintaining a program of financial support to CLO from a broad philanthropic base among alumni.

If we cannot accomplish these two goals, our foundation will not remain viable over the long term. Then the most likely outcome will be that we turn over the CLO property to the University of Florida and dissolve the Foundation. The current Alumni Foundation leadership is committed to the CLO legacy, but we do not feel that it can (or should) exist merely as a social group, nor that it can continue without more involvement from the alumni base.

One suggested solution is that we have a modest (\$50) annual membership fee. To participate in our alumni activities (annual reunion, listserve, Facebook group, etc.) you would need to join. Alternatively, you may give a one-time contribution of \$1000 as either a cash donation or a pledge to contribute that amount over a span of a few years. (Details have yet to be worked out.)

Dr. Joseph Fulk's gift of property and buildings allowed CLO to offer its members low cost living accommodations, because housing was free. Even with the construction of the new buildings during the early 70s, rent remained low; the mortgage on that facility has been paid, so housing is free again. However, over time CLO's physical facilities requires major maintenance, and CLOAF is the primary source for supporting CLO's ability to offer low-cost living. With time the original gift degrades, and it is up to us alumni to maintain Dr. Fulk's original gift. To accomplish this we will need a regular program of philanthropy.

We have a website on which information, photographs, and "CLO Stories" can be found. Go to this link: <http://www.cloalumni.org/>. The emergence of the social media phenomenon, provides a greater opportunity for connecting and interacting. I have created a new Facebook group called: CLO -- Cooperative Living Organization (at UF) aligned with our new/old CLO name – Cooperative Living Organization. This is a moderated group, so request membership by [clicking here](#).

We'd like your feedback. As indicated above, without a vital and involved alumni membership, CLOAF will not be able to carry out its role as Trustee over the long term. We need your participation. Although the percentage of CLO alumni who are committed to maintaining CLO may be small, we are calling on those individuals to join with us.

-- Roger Johnson  
Communications Officer



# Updates from CLO Alumni

On the CLOAF website ([www.cloalumni.org](http://www.cloalumni.org)), there is an update form on which you can provide your name, your current mailing address (both postal and email) and your city, state and country of residence. There is also some space for you to describe your experiences at CLO, your "life since CLO" (family, jobs, travel, honors, awards, etc.), and any general remarks you might like to make. The following paragraphs are taken from update forms received in the past few months. To update your records, go to the website and pick "Alumni Information" from the navigation bar (and please do so). Send a recent picture, if you can.

**Sheryl Lynn (Sherry) Aitken**, Now residing in Thousand Oaks, CA.

**Colleen D. Anderson Sills**, 1974-1975. Colleen resides in Lake Worth, FL. She says "I enjoyed living at CLO very much. I have very fond memories of the time I lived there. My closest friends at that time were people that lived at CLO." Colleen's family includes her husband and 2 daughters, ages 19 & 24. Her younger daughter attends UCF in Orlando and her older daughter works full-time and attends FAU in Boca Raton. Colleen earned bachelors & masters degrees in Music Performance from UF. After UF, she received a bachelor's degree in Special Education from FAU. She began her teaching career as a Special Education teacher in the public schools, and she currently teaches Elementary School Music. She reports that she has continued to play the oboe.

**George Bottcher**, 1967-1970. Now residing in Ellensburg, WA.

**Jorge Cabrera**, 2003-2007. Jorge now lives in Jacksonville, FL. While at CLO, he served on the Board of Directors, and as Vice President. He was an active participant in the effort to maintain CLO as a functional organization in 2006. Jorge says "I have a fantastic career with the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office.

**Randy Lee Conyers**, 2005-2008. Randy lives in Winter Garden, FL. He served as Secretary of CLO.

**Edward J. Dieguez**, 1970-1972. Edward lives in Miami, FL. He wrote "Great transition from high school to college life. Met several great friends and develop companionship well at UF. Will always have fond memories of the people, lifestyle and place."

**Andrew Joseph (Andy) Getch**, 1985-1986. Now resides in Fort Myers, FL. Andy wrote "I was a civil engineering major that ran out of financial aid eligibility before graduating. Moved in [to CLO] Summer B semester with hopes of getting a bed in the fall. With room & board and deferrals CLO helped me finish my classes at UF." While a student he worked in the UF intramurals office in the Florida Gym. He liked the fact that CLO was within walking/biking distance to classes, work, record stores, etc. He participated in intramural volleyball & softball for the CLOnes. Among his memories of CLO, Andy recalls a microwave oven that stayed on when he opened the door, as well as bathroom cleaning, and work weekends. His family includes his wife, two step-children, and one grandchild. He has been a registered professional engineer since 1993, and has been employed by Lee County's Department of Transportation since 1996.

**Thomas William Hair**, 1981-1984. Thomas lives in Cape Coral, FL. He reports that while at CLO, he was a "breakfast cook extraordinaire."

**Caroline (Saralyn) Hickman**, 1984-1988. Saralyn lives in Baltimore, MD. She said "I went to nursing school and specialize in oncology. I currently work on [a] critical care unit specializing in leukemia. It is one of those jobs where you hope you do not run into anyone you know (for their sake)." She reported that she could not attend the October 17 reunion, but concluded with "Give everyone my love."

**Steven T. Howell**, 1986-1991. Steven is presently with the US Army in Europe. He served as CLO Kitchen Manager.

**Anushka I. Joseph**, 2007-2008. Now residing in Gainesville, FL (grad school). Anushka wrote "CLO was an awesome experience for me. It had it's bad and it's good days, especially being on the Executive Board, but I learned a lot from the experience and it helped me grow as an individual. I never thought I had it in me to be the President and be a leader, I'm usually more of a behind the curtains person, but CLO helped me be more confident and Independent. . . . I think the most valuable thing I've got out of CLO are some really good lifelong friends, at least I'm hoping they are lifelong. I was able to find a second family away from home. I was in UF for at least a year before I came to CLO and I think I made some really good friends only after coming to CLO. . . . We need more Alumni involvement, come on guys and gals I know you are out there, we can always use some new and fresh blood in CLOAF. I see the same people who helped us in 2006 still involved but no new faces, just like CLO can always use a few good people we need the same in CLOAF."

**Matthew F. Ogilvie**, 1974-1978. Matthew lives in Marietta, GA. He served as Vice President of CLO in 1976-1977.

**Brian Timmons**, 2003-2009. Brian is a resident of Cocoa, FL. He is a Software Engineer with Harris Corporation in Melbourne. Brian wrote "I lived at CLO through my undergraduate degree . . . After graduation, I liked CLO so much, I came back and stayed there while acquiring my masters . . . " He is interested in helping both CLO and CLOAF, and has offered to encourage CLO alumni from the 2000's to join.

**Ramon L. Torres**, 1976-1979. Ramon lives in Miami, FL. He served as a CLO Board Member.



## Officers and Directors of the CLO Alumni Foundation

**Vincent Assini**  
Board Member and  
Executive Director

**Roger Johnson**  
Board Member and  
Communications Officer

**James R. (Jim) Swanson**  
Board Member and  
Webmaster

**Robert (Bob) Peele**  
Board Member

**Eric Ruff**  
Board Member

**Judge Frank A. Shepherd**  
Honorary Chairman

**Robert (Bob) Dinger**  
Board Member

**Joseph Waldron**  
Board Member

## Officers and Directors of the Cooperative Living Organization, Inc.

### **President**

Jason Iacona, Palm Bay, FL

### **Fire Safety Officer**

Aisha Umar, St. Petersburg, FL

### **Vice President**

Robert Mueller, Palm Harbor, FL

### **Director**

Jade Brown, Ft. Lauderdale, FL

### **Secretary**

Jordan Sharpshair, Clearwater, FL

### **Director**

Barbara Fritz, Clermont, FL

### **Treasurer**

Jean-Paul Baldwin, Port Elizabeth, South Africa

### **Director**

Philip Gilbo, New Port Richey, FL

### **Kitchen Manager**

Andres Arocha, Davie, FL

### **Director**

John Kieslich, Orange Park, FL

## Quiz Answers

### Top picture

Left: Richard Taylor, President of CLO during the last year the original buildings were used we think). He was instrumental in getting the new buildings going. Right: Eric Ruff, a prominent Gainesville Attorney and a member of the CLOAF Board of Directors. The two were roommates in the old Brick House. This picture is circa 1972.

### Middle picture:

Left: Jim Swanson, and Right: Bob Chesinas. Both were residents of CLO in the 1950s. This picture was taken in 1997 in (or near) Coraopolis, PA.

### Bottom picture:

Left: Augustus Johnson and Right: Roger Johnson, the Good Humor Guys. They sold ice cream in New York, in 1967.

If you have a photo that would make a good quiz item for a future newsletter, send it to Jim Swanson whose email address is [jswansonr@verizon.net](mailto:jswansonr@verizon.net), or by [clicking here](#) if you are reading this on your computer. (You may have to press “Ctrl” as you click.)