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The University of Central Florida Libraries, in conjunction with the Kerouac Project of Orlando and the Orange County Library System, is planning a series of programs this fall to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the publication of Jack Kerouac’s seminal works, On the Road and Dharma Bums. Kerouac has long been acknowledged as one of the most significant and influential figures in American literature and is recognized as the father of the Beat Generation. These programs will emphasize Kerouac’s connection to central Florida in general and the Orlando area in particular. While it is known that Kerouac spent the final years of his life in St. Petersburg and died there in 1969, what is often overlooked is that he actually wrote his two most famous books, On the Road (1957) and Dharma Bums (1958), at his home in the College Park neighborhood of Orlando. Programs will run from mid-September through October and will include a Keynote Address by Bob Kealing, author of Kerouac in Florida: Where the Road Ends.

First Generation Scholarship Drive

Were you a first generation student? The University of Central Florida is kicking off this year’s First Generation Scholarship drive. The First Generation Scholarship Fund aids first generation undergraduate students through a need-based financial aid program supported with both institutional and state funding. There are approximately 7,000 students who belong to this group. How important is this program for our first generation students? “Very!” says Judith Beale, Assistant Archivist and contributor to last year’s scholarship drive. “At a time when the state is cutting the university’s budget, this endeavor is a great way to get state help for students.” If you are interested in helping these students achieve their goals as they strive to finish their degrees, please visit our UCF Foundation website for easy access to our Online Giving page.

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