Lifelong Learning Institute

Spring 2012

March 20 – May 10

Learning for the fun of it!

www.LLI.niu.edu
NIULLI@niu.edu

Thank you to NIU Outreach for its assistance in funding our schedule catalogues.
Lifelong Learning Institute

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Members of the LLI thank
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LLI Spring 2012
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LLI Notables Brown Bag Lecture Series  
Tuesdays, 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m., Holmes Student Center  
(Lecture topics subject to change.)

March 20  
The Fuss over Food: The Spice Trade and the Origins of the Modern World  
Eric Jones, NIU Department of History

March 27  
Nutrition and Poverty  
Marti O’Gorman, NIU Recreation Services

April 3  
2012 Presidential Election: Update & Analysis  
Matt Streb, NIU Department of Political Science

April 10  
The Serious Side of Graphic Novels  
Peter Van Ael, NIU School of Art

April 17  
The Big Picture: Books for Children & Young Adults  
Melanie Koss, NIU Department of Literacy Education

April 24  
Challenges of the Modern Olympics  
Jan Rintala, NIU Department of Kinesiology and Physical Education

May 1  
Sex, Drugs, and Rock 'n' Roll: Forty Years On  
Steve Lux, NIU Health Enhancement

May 8  
Playing & Touring with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra  
Line Smelser, Kishwaukee Symphony Orchestra

Bring a lunch, purchase one at the Holmes Student Center,  
or just come and listen. Guests welcome!
The submarine wars conducted by Germany against the Allies and by the United States against the Axis, mainly Japan, are among the least well-known and most decisive actions of the war. The breaking of the German and Japanese naval codes were vital to these victories. The submariners of both Germany and the United States suffered the highest casualty rates of the military arms of those two nations. How did Germany come to lose the submarine war while the US won the submarine war against Japan?

**Convener: Richard Dowen** is NIU professor emeritus and former chair of the Department of Finance. He has convened many study groups for LLI including many involving his avocation of military history.

The conveners will host faculty from various scientific disciplines to present recent significant developments in those disciplines in a way that is accessible to non-scientist, LLI participants.

**Conveners: Jerrold and Carol Zar** are longtime LLI members and conveners. Carol has a background in public administration while Jerry is a retired NIU biological sciences faculty member.

Explore the history of the Malay trading world with Northern Illinois University’s Eric Jones, Ph.D. Jones, an associate professor with the Department of History, has a wealth of knowledge and experience to share with you as you travel together throughout this exciting country. Please visit our website for more information! [www.niu.edu/clasep/specialevents](http://www.niu.edu/clasep/specialevents)
The Greater Journey
1:30 – 3:30 p.m.
Tuesdays – March 20, 27, April 3, 10, 17, 24, May 1, 8

“Not all pioneers went west,” writes David McCullough in the beginning pages of The Greater Journey. From the 1820s to 1900, generations of Americans made the pioneering journey across the Atlantic on a mission of learning and accomplishment in the intellectual, scientific, and artistic capital of the western world: Paris. Listen to video commentaries by McCullough, then read about and help the conveners explore the stories of generations of Americans whose struggles and discoveries in Paris set them on a path to high achievement.


Conveners: Paul Pawlowski and Sharon Tourville. Paul has convened many study groups for LLI, especially in the area of music. Sharon has served on the LLI Steering Committee since January 2008 and has co-convened study groups in the past.

Peril on the Sea
1:30 – 3:30 p.m.
Tuesdays – March 20, 27, April 3, 10, 17, 24, May 1, 8

Explore the nature of World War II at sea through the use of films. These films may include The Cruel Sea; Battle of the River Plate; Sink the Bismarck; Lifeboat; Run Silent, Run Deep; The Caine Mutiny; The Enemy Below; and Mister Roberts.

Convener: George Spencer is NIU professor emeritus and former chair of the Department of History. George has convened and co-convened for LLI for several years including “Postwar America Through Film” and “The 1920s” with his wife, Elaine.
Reconsidering Disability
9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Wednesdays – March 21, 28, April 4, 11, 18, 25, May 2, 9

Explore disability as a social construct. That is, how people understand and respond to disability depends, in large measure, upon how they perceive it. Discussion topics will include how language and media influence attitudes, historical perspectives on segregation and discrimination, eugenics and reproductive technology, community living (versus nursing home placement), disability rights and legislation, and Universal Design. At least one guest speaker will be included to provide first-person perspective from someone with a significant disability.

Convener: Greg Long is a Presidential Teaching Professor at NIU who has a lifetime of experience related to disability. He teaches a popular general education course, “Disability in Society,” and chairs the NIU Presidential Commission on Persons with Disabilities.

Comparative Religions
9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Wednesdays – March 21, 28, April 4, 11, 18, 25, May 2, 9

Topics to be explored include the nature of religion and how important world religions contain universal and unique elements. The goal of the course is to develop an understanding of and appreciation for differing beliefs.

Convener: Joe Gastiger is retired from NIU, where he taught English and was program coordinator for the NIU Honors Program. He is currently the pastor of the First Congregational United Church of Christ in DeKalb. Joe has also convened study groups, such as “Unlikely Stories” and “Words We Love More than the Things Themselves.”
The Joy of Music from Vivaldi and Bach to Copland and Bernstein
1 – 3 p.m.
Wednesdays – March 21, 28, April 4, 11, 18, 25, May 2, 9

In this program we will explore the infinite beauty of music created by the greatest composers of the past, as performed by the greatest musicians of the present, and the power of this music to move an audience. Our aim: sheer pleasure – and some fun.

Convener: Albert Resis is a retired NIU history professor. He is also a connoisseur of classical music and has convened LLI study groups entitled “The Symphony Orchestra: Instruments, Players, and Composers” and “China Today: An Introduction.”

The Joy of Music from Vivaldi and Bach to Copland and Bernstein
1 – 3 p.m.
Wednesdays – March 21, 28, April 4, 11, 18, 25, May 2, 9

Literature and Film: Responses to Virginia Woolf’s Mrs. Dalloway
1 – 3 p.m.
Wednesdays – March 21, 28, April 4, 11, 18, 25, May 2, 9

Explore Virginia Woolf’s classic early twentieth-century Modernist novel and Michael Cunningham’s late twentieth-century response to it. We will view both films together and explore both novels during the course of the discussion group, so participants should have read Mrs. Dalloway (by no later than week 3) and The Hours (by no later than week 6). Books will be available for purchase from the University Bookstore.

Recommended reading:

Convener: Lise Schlosser is an experienced convener having led discussion groups on Queen Elizabeth I, Renaissance women, and Shakespeare’s women. She is a Ph.D. student studying English and women’s studies at NIU.

Convenient parking, close to the Holmes Student Center where most LLI study groups meet, is located on Carroll Avenue in the NIU Visitors Lot and is available to NIU LLI members. Don’t forget to identify yourself as an NIU LLI member to receive the reduced $2 rate!
Castles, Palaces, and Vineyards in Europe – Location, Location, Location!
9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Thursdays – March 22, 29, April 5, 12, 19, 26, May 3, 10

Discuss the differences between a castle and a palace and learn about the geography of the top wine producing areas in Europe. The study group emphasizes the importance of landscapes in France, Spain, Portugal, Italy, and Germany and how those countries developed their castles, palaces, and vineyards.

Conveners: Dan & Joanne Dillman. Dan is professor emeritus in geography at NIU and has an ongoing interest in characteristic features of regions. The Dillmans recently convened a study group on lighthouses, shipwrecks, and invasive species of the Great Lakes.

Stratford Shakespeare Festival

Monday, July 2 - Friday, July 6, 2012
Stratford, Ontario, Canada

The 2012 Program

Join us for highlights of the Stratford Shakespeare Festival’s 60th season, including Henry V, Much Ado about Nothing, Cymbeline and The War of 1812. This 25th annual NIU trip offers Matchmaker, The Best Brothers, The Pirates of Penzance, You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown, and Hirsch as optional plays and musicals.

For more information about the trip, visit www.niu.edu/clasep or call 815-753-5200.
**Blue, White, and Red**
1 – 3 p.m.
Thursdays – March 22, 29, April 5, 12, 19, 26

Juliette Bincohe, Julie Delpy, Irene Jacob and Jean-Louis Trintignant starred in some of the best roles of their careers in this triptych of films by director Krzysztof Kieslowski.

In *Blue* a young woman is left devastated by the unexpected death of her husband and child. *White* tells the tale of a man whose beautiful wife deserts him and his dangerous scheme of vengeance against her. In *Red* a young model has a chance meeting with an unusual stranger who leads her down a path of intrigue and secrecy.

After viewing each film in one session, we will follow the next week with discussion and the audio commentary (included on each movie disc) by film scholar Annette Insdorf. Her explanations of themes, music, and colors used in the films make for a profound study in Kieslowski’s film making genius.

**Conveners: Jan Graefen, Sue Lehto, Marilyn Loy, and Jan Modloff** are all regular LLI participants and contributors.

**Digital Photography**
1 – 3 p.m.
Thursdays – March 22, 29, April 5, 12, 19, 26, May 3, 10

This class is designed to help you become more familiar with your camera, its settings, capabilities, and mysteries. We will share questions, problems, and common mistakes – and maybe even laugh together. Our goal is to discover ways to improve our images and conquer our fears of composition, exposure, and lighting. Class participation will determine the exact topics covered.

**Convener: James Womack** has taught photography and maintained a successful photography business for many years. James has convened other digital photography study groups for LLI in the past.
LLI Cultural Events Committee Recommendations

The Cultural Events Committee recommends two activities for the LLI Spring Term, 2012: A tour of the reopening of the Anthropology Museum in Cole Hall and a lecture on “Illuminated Manuscripts,” organized by the NIU Art Museum.

NIU Anthropology Museum, Monday, April 2, 2012, 1 p.m.

As part of the remodeling and reopening of Cole Hall this spring, NIU’s Anthropology Museum has been relocated to that building. Sara Pfannkuche, the museum’s acting director, has agreed to give LLI members a tour of the new facilities. Included in the tour will be a viewing of the current exhibits and some of the behind-the-scenes areas, along with an opportunity to ask questions about the museum’s operation. The tour is tentatively scheduled for Monday, April 2, at 1 p.m. Since the museum is closed to the public on Mondays, the LLI is getting a private tour.

Exhibits to open in 2012:
- *Touch the Sky*
- *Dancing With Spirit: Korean Mask and Object Theater*
- *Saving Endangered Species*

NIU Art Museum Tour & Lecture, Tuesday, April 10, 2012, 4:15 p.m.

Field Trip, Saturday, April 14, 2012, 9 a.m.

On Tuesday, April 10, 2012, join us at 4:15 p.m. for a tour of the NIU Art Museum Galleries in Altgeld Hall, followed at 5 p.m. with a lecture on *Illuminated Manuscripts*, presented by associate professor of art history Ann van Dijk.

Ann van Dijk is a specialist in Early Christian, Byzantine, and medieval art. She received her B.A. from the University of Toronto (1988) and her M.A. and Ph.D. from The Johns Hopkins University (1989, 1996). Her research centers on the city of Rome during the medieval and early modern periods.

For those who are interested in learning more about the manuscripts, the NIU Art Museum is offering a field trip on Saturday, April 14, 2012, to the Chicago Calligraphy Collective Annual Juried Exhibition at the Newberry Library in Chicago. (See [http://chicagocalligraphy.org/](http://chicagocalligraphy.org/) and click on exhibitions.) Also, a stop at the Chicago Cultural Center to view “Write Now: Artists and Letterforms” will be included. (For more information, see [http://explorechicago.org/city/en/things_see_do/event_landing/events/dca_tourism/writenow.html](http://explorechicago.org/city/en/things_see_do/event_landing/events/dca_tourism/writenow.html))

The coach departs from the School of Art parking lot at 9 a.m. and returns at 6 p.m. Transportation and tour fees:
- NIU Art Museum Members and LLI Members: $20
- Students/Seniors: $25
- All others: $28. Registration and payment deadline is Friday, April 6, 2012.

The NIU Art Museum is located on the west end of Altgeld Hall, first floor.

For more information contact, Josephine Burke at [jburke2@niu.edu](mailto:jburke2@niu.edu)
### NIU School of Theatre and Dance

**Mrs. Packard by Emily Mann**  
March 29-April 1, 11-15, 2012

In 1861, Illinois law allowed men to hospitalize their wives for insanity without the evidence normally required. Elizabeth Packard, the wife of Reverend Theophilus Packard, is a loving mother and educated woman. However, her dissenting views on a variety of topics – the most volatile of which being religion – lead to her husband having her institutionalized. Based on actual events, Emily Mann’s darkly-compelling drama gets to the heart of humanity, freedom, faith, and the fine line of sanity.

**Siécle de Ballet**  
April 26-29, 2012

For its spring dance concert, NIU’s renowned dance school will present two ballets, representing both classic and contemporary styles. *Raymonda*, the classic ballet choreographed by Marius Petipa, will be accompanied by a modern ballet piece, to be determined.

### NIU Alumni Association

**“What Color is your Parachute?”**

Saturday, March 31, 2012  
8:30 AM to 3:30 PM, NIU Naperville,  
1120 E. Diehl Rd., Naperville, IL 60563  
Cost: $40

Join your fellow NIU alumni and friends for a practical seminar with published author and life coach, John E. Nelson, featuring discussions and activities to help you plan for a prosperous, healthy, and happy future.  
For more information go to  
[www.niu.edu/alumni/events](http://www.niu.edu/alumni/events)

### NIU Annuitants Association

Train trip to Washington D.C., April 10-15, 2012. Visit our nation’s capitol on vintage private rail cars during the 100th anniversary of the cherry blossom festival. For more information contact  
sjohnso11@niu.edu  
[www.niu.edu/annuitants/events](http://www.niu.edu/annuitants/events)

### NIU Art Museum

**Spring 2012 Art and Architecture**  
**GOTBON (Get-On-The-Bus Over-Nighter)**  
**Thursday, May 31 – Sunday, June 3, 2012**  
Indianapolis/Columbus

Travel to Indianapolis for a full weekend exploring both public art and museum collections, plus a day trip to nearby Columbus for tours of its acclaimed modern architecture.

For more information, visit  
[http://www.niu.edu/artmuseum/bus/trips.shtml](http://www.niu.edu/artmuseum/bus/trips.shtml)

### NIU School of Music

- Avalon String Quartet, Wednesdays, March 21 & April 15, 8 p.m.
- NIU Opera Theatre, Sunday, April 1, 3 p.m.
- Afro-Pop Music Ensemble, Friday, April 13, 8 p.m.
- World Music Ensemble, Sunday, April 15, 3 p.m.
- NIU Steel Band, Sunday, April 22, 3 p.m.

For many other offerings, visit  
[http://www.niucalendar.niu.edu/EAS/Calendar.aspx](http://www.niucalendar.niu.edu/EAS/Calendar.aspx)
1. PHONE 1-800-345-9472 or (815) 753-0277 to register with a credit card. TTY/TYY callers, phone (815) 753-2000 and ask to be connected with “Outreach.”
2. ONLINE registration at http://www.lli.niu.edu (click on the appropriate program term) with a credit card.
3. FAX your form to (815) 753-6900 to register with a credit card.
4. MAIL completed form with check or credit card information to: Northern Illinois University, NIU Outreach-Registration, DeKalb, IL 60115-2860

**Spring term only membership fee**

I am a [ ] new [ ] renewing member. Please check one.

_____ $80 ($90 after March 13, 2012)

_____ If you qualify for the LIHEAP program, call Liberal Arts and Sciences External Programming at (815) 753-5200 for authorization to register at a reduced fee.

$______ Total due

Name(s)_________________________________________________________________________________

Mailing address___________________________________________________________________________

City__________________________________State__________ZIP code (+4)___________________

E-mail address___________________________________________________________________________

Day phone_____________________________Evening phone______________________________________

Special needs_____________________________________________________________________________

Emergency contact name_____________________________________Relationship_____________________

Address________________________________________________________________________________ Phone (day)________________________________________

[ ] Check here and attach an explanation if you have special needs that are regulated by the Americans with Disabilities Act. (Contact NIU’s Center for Access-Ability Resources for assistance. http://www.niu.edu/caar/)

I heard about the LLI from: [ ] Friend [ ] Newspaper [ ] Flyer [ ] Library [ ] Radio [ ] TV
[ ] Internet [ ] Catalogue [ ] Other: ____________________________________________________________________________

All memberships are individual. Membership includes unlimited study groups, lectures, and workshops for the spring 2012 term. Registration for study groups is on a first-come, first-served basis. Mail-in registrations are accepted any time prior to the first study group meeting date, space permitting. All study groups, lectures, and special events are subject to availability and change. The enrollment maximum for all study groups is 40 participants unless otherwise stated.
Registration Form - NIU Lifelong Learning Institute (NIU LLI)
Spring 2012 (March 20-May 10) Event #12208

Registrant #1 preferred name for nametag: _____________________________

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$______ Total amount remitted (from previous page)

[ ] Check payable to NIU
[ ] Charge fee to: [ ] VISA [ ] MasterCard [ ] Discover [ ] American Express

Name as appears on credit card__________________________ Exp. Date_____/_____

Credit card billing address______________________________

City________________________ State_______ ZIP code (+4)________________

Account #________________________ Exp. Date________________

Signature________________________ Date________________

Refunds: Membership dues refund requests must be received one week prior to the start of the term, subject to a $10 processing charge. No refunds for term membership fees after March 9, 2012. Full refunds are given to a person when all of the programs for which the person registered are not available because they are canceled or over-subscribed.

DISCLAIMER: I do not hold the Lifelong Learning Institute or Northern Illinois University responsible for any injury that may occur during an LLI program in which I participate during spring 2012.

Signature________________________ Date________________

Questions: Call External Programming, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, (815) 753-5200, e-mail LASEP@niu.edu, or visit http://www.lli.niu.edu.
Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Lifelong Learning Institute?
The Lifelong Learning Institute at Northern Illinois University (LLI) is a member-directed group of retirement-age people who seek new learning experiences. Members, regardless of their education, enjoy continuing to learn in an informal, flexible, and non-competitive environment with individual participation. They rekindle old interests and pursue new ones at a reasonable cost without being concerned about credits, grades, exams, or prerequisites.

Members determine the topics offered in study groups, workshops, and lectures and also act as LLI conveners, instructors, and discussion leaders.

A self-supporting organization, the LLI relies on members’ dues for its financial needs and on member volunteers for committees and program administration.

The Northern Illinois University LLI is affiliated with the Elderhostel Institute Network and more than 300 LLIs across the United States.

Who may join the LLI?
The LLI is open to anyone who is retired or at least 50 years of age, with a sense of curiosity and a love of learning. The LLI welcomes all members, from those whose education ended early to those who have earned advanced degrees. Members include retired business people, teachers, Fulbright scholars, homemakers, union members, professionals, and farmers.

Where does the LLI meet?
Unless otherwise noted, sessions meet in the Holmes Student Center (HSC) on the Northern Illinois University campus in DeKalb. LLI members may park in the nearby visitors parking lot at a reduced rate. Various eating places in the center provide locations for members to talk and socialize over lunch.

What does the LLI offer?
Various study groups and workshops are offered each term, with the current term’s offerings described in this catalogue. A curriculum committee of LLI members chooses subjects, primarily from members’ suggestions, based on perceived levels of interest and the availability of conveners.

Study groups, which may meet for as many as eight sessions, have considerable member participation. Much discussion occurs; a straight lecture format is rarely used.

Workshops are hands-on programs that usually involve learning a skill or gaining practical information and generally have fewer sessions.

The LLI Notables Brown Bag Lectures are given by speakers whose expertise and interests often coincide with study group themes. Question-and-answer sessions follow the lectures. Some LLI members join just to attend the LLI Notables Series.

Members may enroll in study groups and workshops, take advantage of just the lecture series, or participate in all LLI activities. Regular attendance is encouraged, but we know LLI members have busy schedules. Early registration is recommended since class size is limited. LLI study groups are open only to LLI members. The LLI Notables Brown Bag Lecture Series is open to the public.

Who are the LLI instructors?
Every study group or workshop has a convener who may also lead some classes. Some groups have an instructor; other groups divide tasks among their members. Some leaders are retired educators; others have had little or no teaching experience but are willing to share their vocational expertise, hobbies, experiences, talent, or knowledge.

When does the LLI meet?
Study groups and workshops are offered on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings and afternoons. The LLI Notables Brown Bag Lecture Series is on Tuesdays, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. There are four terms per year: winter, spring, summer, and fall. Traditionally, winter and summer terms last four weeks, and spring and fall terms span eight weeks. Special programs may take place at other times.

How do I become an LLI member?
You become an LLI member by completing an application form and paying a fee. This fee entitles you to enroll in unlimited study groups and workshops and attend the lecture series on a term by term basis. You are also eligible for discounts on other special events that may carry additional fees.

If you have already joined LLI at NIU, mark the registration form as a “renewing member” if you wish to participate in the current term's activities.

LLI study groups are open to all members who wish to participate; scholarships may be available for those needing financial assistance. For information, contact Liberal Arts and Sciences External Programming. All requests are confidential. Please inquire about special registration fees available for persons in the LIHEAP program.

Where can I find more information and/or register?
Call Liberal Arts and Sciences External Programming at (815) 753-5200
E-mail the NIU LLI at NIULLI@niu.edu
Check the LLI website at http://www.LLI.niu.edu
Join us on Facebook by searching for Northern Illinois University Lifelong Learning Institute.