



LLI NEWSLETTER

Fall 2008

MUSINGS...

Sharon Tourville, Steering Committee Chair

**Lifelong Learning
Institute
at
Northern Illinois
University**

**Opening
doors...**

**Building
friendships...**

**Learning
for the
fun of it!**

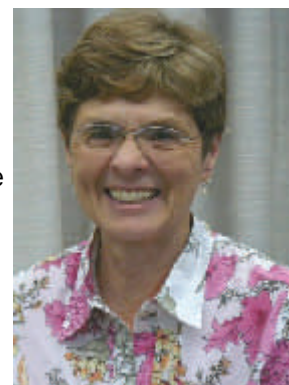
**Invite a friend to
join the LLI!**

**Phone:
815-753-5200**

**Email:
LASEP@niu.edu**

**Website:
www.lli.niu.edu**

Just as my little granddaughter has developed during this first year of her life, I see parallels in the development of LLI. When we were originally established as the Institute for Learning in Retirement (ILR), the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences was fully committed to giving us the financial support that a newborn needs. With a little maturity, as with any child, the program was encouraged and expected to care for itself more and more. Some of our activities led to expenses beyond our means. We were in debt to our parent. Isn't that just like a kid?



Lilly, my granddaughter, has progressed from being bottle fed to whole foods and likes feeding herself. We in the LLI program are also taking greater responsibility for ourselves. Members are planning study groups and field trips with a serious eye on keeping LLI financially stable. The Steering, Curriculum, and Field Trip Committees all work with greater awareness of projected costs. No, LLI is not yet independent, nor do we want to be. We need our parent External Programming Office to steer us through the workings of the university. And we're kids. We really don't want to do it all; we need our playtime!

In December, many caring members of the LLI family gave us generous gifts to bolster our future. In addition, we were able to get the blessings of a godmother for the LLI program from within NIU. Anne Kaplan, NIU vice president for administration and university outreach, has pledged financial support from her office, for which we are very thankful.

This spring, we really did learn to feed ourselves! And what delicious food it was. Two delightful evenings were spent amid scrumptious appetizers and luscious desserts at the homes of Jerry and Carol Zar and Paul and Marlene Pawlowski. Our gracious hosts entertained with such genuinely warm hospitality that no one wanted to go home. And, in feeding ourselves, we not only created stronger bonds of friendship among LLI members, but we earned ourselves out of debt. We raised funds, a task few of us enjoy, while having fun and not even noticing the unpleasant request for money. Future social events will be offered, and we hope you will be a part of them. Think teen-agers, think parties!

Having compared retirees to children, I hope you feel young again. After all, retirement is a new stage of life where we should be able to try new things that we haven't had time for until now. When you hear of friends retiring or you learn of people wasting these wonderful years with nothing to do now that they don't go out to a job, tell them about LLI. Our semester catalogues make wonderful inserts with retirement cards or gifts.

NIU, LLI REACH OUT TO EACH OTHER

An enhanced relationship and added dollars for LLI are the results of discussions this spring between representatives of the LLI Steering Committee and the university-wide NIU Outreach, which has overall responsibility for taking NIU's work/mission beyond its DeKalb campus.

The most important immediate part of this new relationship is that NIU Outreach has agreed to underwrite some of our marketing expenses, specifically a share of the printing costs for LLI catalogs that announce our offerings each term. This printing subsidy, which approximately equals our previous annual deficit, should guarantee LLI's financial health.

The NIU Outreach group –Anne Kaplan (NIU vice president for administration and university outreach), Matt Volk, and Brian Vollmert—were particularly interested in three aspects of LLI: our interdisciplinary programming, the possibility of developing off-campus offerings, and our long-term potential for obtaining external funding.

Our LLI representatives – Sharon Tourville (Steering Committee chair), Carol Zar, Gilby Mehagan, Pat Mehagan, and Arlene Neher – were interested in finding support for our programs and a more stable financial foundation for LLI. While NIU Outreach is not able to take over any of the management of LLI, they did find our interdisciplinary programs, our intended audience, and our potential to be congruent with their mission.

LLI will continue to be under the sponsorship of Liberal Arts and Sciences External Programming, with the experienced leadership of Anne Petty Johnson and Kathy Wright and their staff. However, with this new level of sponsorship from NIU Outreach, LLI will have broader access to resources across the campus and beyond.

In other outreach efforts this past year, the LLI Steering Committee established partnerships for several of our field trips with the University Women's Club and with the NIU Alumni Association.

-Arlene Neher

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COMING THIS FALL TO LLI

September 16 – November 6

(course lengths may vary)

Economics for Poets -- Dick Downen

The Immune System -- Laz Hanzely

Colonial America -- Russell Legg

The Community Read: *To Kill a Mocking*

Bird -- Kathy Dust

Making the Most of Your Computer--

Norma Wiley

Stem Cells Fundamentals & Research --

Darrell Wiley

Opera -- Clark Neher

Route 66: The Mother Road -- Dan Dillman

Introductory History of the Bible --

Joe Gastiger

Courageous Conversations About Race --

LaMetra Curry

Exploring India -- George Spencer

Cole & Noel: You're the Tops! --

Paul Pawlowski



SOIREES A GREAT SUCCESS!

Our two spring soirees were a big hit, with 120 members enjoying each other's company over delicious desserts and hors d'ouvres provided by fellow LLI members. Between reservations and additional contributions, some from members who could not attend, a net profit of \$3,470 was deposited in LLI's account with the NIU Foundation. Thanks to all who supported our first fund-raising event with their work, dollars and in-kind donations. Special thanks go to hosts Carol & Jerry Zar (DeKalb) and Marlene & Paul Pawlowski (St. Charles) and to committee members Elizabeth Bass, Sue Lehto, Pat Mehagan, Arlene Neher, Marlene Pawlowski, Sharon Tourville, and Carol Zar.

How sweet – and savory – it was at the LLI soirees! LLI members Marilyn Loy (left) and Jan Graefen were among those who enjoyed the food and company at our St. Charles soiree.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Spring 2008

- Jane Brickert - Big Rock
- Jane McBride - DeKalb
- Connie McCleary - Sycamore

FALL 2008 FIELD TRIPS

Sept. 9

- Long Grove Confectionary
- Long Grove Village
- Cuneo Museum

Nov. 3

- Chicago Board of Trade
- Federal Reserve Bank
- Chicago History Museum



Parking Information Update

Parking fees for the NIU Visitor's Lot on Carroll Avenue will not increase this fall. Remember to identify yourself as an LLI member to receive the reduced \$2 rate.

LLI'S LEADING ECONOMIC INDICATOR

Richard Downen didn't waste much time getting deeply involved with LLI following his retirement from the NIU College of Business. Since stepping down as finance department chair, a little more than a year ago, he has been a student in LLI and also has convened two short courses on personal investing. Dick says that his involvement was a natural progression. "Professors like to teach, so what better way to enter retirement than to find a new venue where you can keep doing just that?"

A native of Milwaukee, and a Vietnam-era veteran, Dick's undergraduate major (UW-Milwaukee) was philosophy. As an "alternative to starving," his first job was as a collection officer with the Internal Revenue Service. Although he describes this early professional experience as "more negotiation than finance," it did put him on the path to an MBA, and that lead to a faculty position at Mansfield University in Pennsylvania. Teaching fueled his interest in higher education, and eventually he completed a Ph.D. in finance at SUNY-Binghamton.

Dick's first LLI short study groups were analytical and were aimed at helping people become more savvy investors. His courses always have a strong emphasis on practical applications. He states that the overarching goal in all his teaching is "working to eliminate financial and economic illiteracy."

This fall, Dick is convening "Economics for Poets" for LLI. When asked how such disparate subjects are connected, he simply smiles and says, "I'll start by asking the class to respond to this statement: The shine on a rich man's shoes has no more intrinsic value than the shine on a poor man's pants - True or False?" While maintaining his signature emphasis on analysis and practical application, Dick wants to encourage a more right brain examination of economics. He'll explore supply and demand, the pluses and minuses of tax cuts, and the Federal Reserve System and help participants understand a variety of economic indicators. With Dick's genial nature and witty presentation style, this won't be a boring ride.



Beyond finance and economics, Dick is an avid student of military history and is very much a Civil War buff. With luck, he will continue to develop new and innovative learning opportunities for LLI. With Sharon, his wife, retiring as NIU's director of internal auditing at the end of the year, maybe a joint venture is possible. Anyone for "Auditors at Antietam?"
 --Brad Pietens

LLI FALL LUNCHEON
 Saturday, September 6, 2008
 11:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m
 American National Bank (Lower Level)
 Bethany Rd. & Rt. 23 (Sycamore Rd./DeKalb Ave)

A great time to catch up with old friends
 and to introduce new friends to LLI
 \$10 per person, payable at the door
 Advanced reservations required. Contact Sharon Tourville
 at stourville@comcast.net or (815)758-0236

INSURE YOUR FUTURE

Consider making a contribution to the NIU LLI fund with the NIU Foundation to honor or remember someone or because of what LLI means to you. Just write a check to the "NIU Foundation," put "NIU Lifelong Learning Institute" in the memo line, and mail the check to:

NIU Foundation,
 1425 W. Lincoln Highway
 DeKalb IL 60115.