

LLI NEWSLETTER

Fall 2007

MUSINGS...

By Tom Diedrich, Steering Committee

Our NIU LLI is fortunate that Sharon Tourville has agreed to take priceless time from her duties as a new grandmother to become our next LLI Steering Committee chair. Sharon is well grounded in LLI matters. She has been an LLI member, a convener, a curriculum committee co-chair, and a frequent study group participant for several years. Incidentally, it was a session that Sharon co-convended on the Lewis and Clark expedition that first attracted my wife, Mary Lou, and me to LLI some four years ago.



Since my column earlier this year, LLI has moved along for a few more seasons, supported by innumerable and invaluable persons. We are sincerely grateful and thankful to both the NIU External Programming office personnel and LLI member volunteers, past and present, who have performed, and are performing, all the tasks necessary to ensure our continued success.

This has been a banner year for LLI, thanks to our Curriculum, Membership, and reconstituted Field Trip and Notables Committees. Membership has moved upward, and session registrations have increased noticeably over the preceding year. However, our finances continue to be pinched as costs move upward. But we will continue to take steps to ensure LLI's continuing success.

Strategic Plan

Last year, the university generously sponsored a professionally-run LLI Strategic Planning Workshop for us that produced a document with many ideas, both short-term and long-term, about where LLI should be headed. This summer, a group of us met and, under the astute guidance of LLI member Carol Zar, an experienced professional planner, chose priorities and how to implement them to achieve our goals. At the plan's heart are two BIG questions: 1) How do we get the resources -- people, ideas, time, effort -- to achieve our goals? and 2) How can we become financially self-sustaining? (We have been receiving some support from NIU.)

Continued on page 2 ...

**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**

WORLDLY AFFAIRS

When Lyle Sykora lived in Naperville, he *had* to commute one hour to his job with Allstate insurance. Now, often accompanied by his wife, Helen, he *chooses* to drive 90 minutes from Lake Carroll eastward to DeKalb to take and to convene LLI courses.

What keeps him coming back as a convener? Well, Lyle describes himself as an “omnivorous reader” who has always been fascinated by international relations. “After I read all this stuff, I feel a need, a desire, to share it with others,” he explains. “I enjoy talking foreign policy and its consequences and one doesn’t find much, if any, opportunity of doing so in normal daily life.”

A native of Chicago’s south side, Lyle remembers always liking maps and listening to Edward R. Morrow’s broadcasts from London while growing up during World War II. After two years in the Army, he attended the U of I on the Korean GI bill, majoring in political science. (His tuition: \$60/semester!)

Lyle previously convened LLI courses on the factors influencing the U.S. constitution of 1787, the foreign policy ideas of Hans Morgenthau and George Kennan, and nuclear non-proliferation.



This fall, Lyle will convene *American Foreign Policy Problems* for LLI. To prepare, he has been reading books (Dennis Ross’ recent volume *Statecraft*), magazines (The Economist, Business Week), and the Internet (Asian Times). The study group will discuss such questions as: Is America an empire? Are we militaristic? Do we need a ballistic missile defense system? Is our foreign policy oil driven? How should America deal with developing nations?

To help study group members understand the issues, Lyle is putting together a world numbers sheet with such diverse data as nations’ percent of arable land, population density, GDP per head, and birth and death rates.

Musings...(Continued from page 1)

Some of the ideas in the plan already have been implemented. With the approval and blessing of our NIU External Programming partners, the adoption of priorities is on the agenda of our impending Steering Committee meeting.

Financial Development

Did you know that the Northern Illinois University foundation maintains a separate account designated for NIU LLI? This account has been in existence practically since our LLI began over six years ago. It is a depository for individual tax-deductible contributions to LLI that can provide funds to help us reach our goals by growing and enriching our programs.

Your donations are always welcome, whether checks, appreciated securities or other property, or bequests through wills or trusts. Several members already have included bequests to LLI in their wills that will help ensure our future financial stability.

Next time you don’t know what to get someone, consider a gift to the NIU LLI fund in celebration of someone’s birthday, anniversary, or achievement or in memory of someone. Please contact the LLI office at (815) 753-5200 with any questions.

Finally...

Autumn 2007 is fast approaching. Sadly, my Chicago White Sox are all but out of the baseball pennant and wildcard races, but sweet corn season is here again and my tomatoes are ripening nicely. As always, we win some, and we lose some. And NIU just might surprise Iowa on September 1. (Our LLI field trip to the game, in cooperation with the NIU Alumni Association, sold out quickly.)

AMONG OUR PRIORITIES...

- Strengthen committees, including having a past chair, chair, and chair-elect for each committee to ensure continuity and to share the work load.
- Develop a consultants group of experienced conveners to help new conveners.
- Pursue a dedicated LLI phone message for the External Programming office.
- Continue relationship with NIU Alumni Association.



Will one answer to the energy crisis be found blowing in the wind?

It already has, as these NIU LLI and NIU Alumni Association members found out on our first joint field trip, an April expedition to the Mendota Hills Wind Farm off of I-39. Travelers were impressed by the size of the turbines and by how quiet they are as they produce enough power for 15,000 homes.



NEWS YOU CAN USE AT LLI

EACH ONE, REACH ONE

While not each of us wants to convene a study group, each of us could introduce a friend to LLI. So bring a friend to any class session or Notables talk. And pass along the names and addresses of prospective members for our mailing list to Anne Petty Johnson at apetty@niu.edu, give the information to the graduate assistant, or slip it into the suggestion box outside our classrooms.

FALL 2007 FIELD TRIPS

- Sept. 24 "Niki in the Garden" at Garfield Park Conservatory & Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio Tour
- Oct. 26 Chicago Symphony Orchestra presents Mozart & Brahms with guest conductor Emanuel Ax
- Nov. 9 Historic Bronzeville including the South Shore Cultural Center, DuSable Museum of African American History, and First Church of the Deliverance

CALLING ALL MEMBERS

Want to do something worthwhile in good company? Then join an LLI committee (curriculum, membership, notables, field trips, development). Contact the office at (815) 753-5200 or the chairs listed in the course catalog.

SY SIMON

Our ranks were lessened with the March death of Sy Simon a convener, a former co-chair of the LLI Curriculum Committee, and an active LLI member, along with his wife, Ina. We are the richer for having had Sy as part of the LLI community.

ANSWERING THE CALL

Thank you, gracias, merci beaucoup, and more to the members who volunteer to get out many LLI mailings, including this one.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- September 7 LLI Luncheon
- September 18 Fall 2007 term begins
- September 24 "Niki in the Garden"/Frank Lloyd Wright field trip
- October 26 Chicago Symphony Orchestra field trip
- November 8 Fall 2007 term ends
- November 9 Historic Bronzeville field trip
- January 22 Winter 2008 term begins

PREMIERING THIS FALL

September 18—November 8 (all sessions 8 weeks, unless noted)

Entheogens--Sacramentals or Sacrilege

*Thomas Roberts

Safe Food and Common Sense

*Norman Schmitt

Crime Scene Processing

James Rossi (1 session)

Wine Appreciation

*Louis Schoenburg (2 sessions)

Tools to Help You Be Part of Your Own Healing

Rebecca Cohen & *Joe Puleo (5 sessions)

How to Build a Habitable Planet: The Early History of Planet Earth

*Clarence Cassella

Race in American Musicals

Paul Pawlowski

American Foreign Policy Problems

Lyle Sykora

Human Genetics

Lazlo Hanzely (6 sessions)

Scandals, Seductions, Seditious, and Spying: Rebellious Women of the Renaissance

Lise Mae Schlosser

Lincoln: The War Years

Rossell Legg

* New Convener

**New Program!
New & Old Friends!**

LLI Luncheon

Friday, September 7

11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Chandelier Room

Adams Hall, NIU

Members & Guests Welcome

\$12/person (Pay at the door.)

Whatever the weather,
our welcome will be warm.

Reservations may ***only*** be made
by calling the LLI / External
Programming

Office at 815-753-5200.

Directions to the Chandelier Room
at

<http://www.niu.edu/visit/directions.shtml>

NOTES from NIU NOTABLES

A large Hershey's chocolate bar has enough energy to power a 100 watt light for 3.5 hours.--Donald Zinger



The value of a story is in its transmission. --Peggy Sullivan

Taming the Wild Prairie: A History of DeKalb County 1837-1900 at <http://dig.lib.niu.edu/dekalb> has text and images about local history.

--Drew VandeCreek

Film star Hedy Lamarr had a patent on technology that is now used in cell phones. --Lesley Rigg

March Notable Ross Powell was featured on the front page of the July 3 Chicago Tribune.