

NIU LLI NEWSLETTER

Winter 2007

By Tom Diedrich, Steering Committee

MUSINGS...

*Northern Illinois
University's
Lifelong Learning
Institute*

*Opening
doors...*

*Building
friendships...*

*Learning
for the
fun of it!*

*Invite a friend to
join the NIU LLI!*

*Phone:
815-753-5200*

*Email:
LASEP@niu.edu*

*Website:
www.lli.niu.edu*

On behalf of all of us in the NIU LLI, I sincerely hope and pray that your 2006-2007 holiday season is most joyous and happy, and I toast to your good health.

Since our last newsletter, NIU LLI committees--including Steering, Membership, Curriculum and the recently added Field Trip and Notables--have been very active and have held many meetings. Some comments and observations:

Membership

Our recently completed eight-week fall session showed a remarkable increase in new members and in course enrollment, according to a report at the Steering Committee's November meeting. Kudos to our membership committee members for their tireless efforts in such activities as contacting individual prospects by phone and in person and getting the new NIU LLI brochure to businesses who deal with retirees and seniors. Through their efforts, the NIU LLI database and email directories are being updated for membership-related follow-up.

Remember, the committee depends on us, the existing members, to keep our eyes and ears peeled for prospective members.

Curriculum

The Winter 2007 course catalogue has been mailed, and extra copies are available to hand to persons you consider as prospective NIU LLI members. The Curriculum Committee is putting the finishing touches on what promises to be a most interesting eight-week Spring 2007 term. We are all urged to be constantly alert to the NIU LLI's continual need for more subjects and conveners. Don't be shy if you have ideas. Write them down and get in touch with a committee member or put them in our suggestion box ... or join the curriculum committee. If your idea covers a subject that is suitable for less than a full four- or eight -week term, it can be balanced with other short term subjects.



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ENCORES FOR MUSIC HISTORY

If you want to learn how *God Bless America* was rejected as a World War I song, then sign up for the winter term study group convened by Paul Pawlowski. And if you would like to learn how Broadway and Hollywood have portrayed African-Americans, sign up for his spring term class.

Paul says that he is returning as an NIU LLI convener because of his desire to share what fascinates him – the history of music, particularly the stories behind musicals and operettas. “The history interests me as much as the melodies,” he explains. And, he adds, convening a study group is fun.

Paul has previously led popular study groups on operetta, stage lyricists (he even taught this twice), and his personal favorite, “Three Kings and A Duke,” which

looked at Johann Strauss II (the waltz king), John Philip Sousa (the march king), Scott Joplin (the ragtime king), and Duke Ellington.

A retired civil trial lawyer who lives in St. Charles, Paul grew up in Morris, where he attended a one-room school for a few years. He won a scholarship to Harvard, then went to Harvard Law School. His Harvard classmates included Michael Dukakis, Anton Scalia, and Ted Kennedy.

Paul now enjoys having time to explore musical history through performances, DVDs, CDs, the Internet and printed material, sharing the best in NIU LLI study groups. As well as convening, Paul and his wife, Marlene, frequently attend NIU LLI study groups. His favorites have included Sy Simon’s study group and a talk by DeKalb Municipal Band leader Dee Palmer with whom Paul says that he would have loved spending more time.

PLANNING FOR OUR FUTURE

“The NIU LLI is five years old. Where do we do from here?” That was the question addressed when 14 NIU LLI members gathered for an all-day, strategic planning retreat in late September. Under the guidance of Greg Kuhn, from NIU’s Center for Governmental Studies, the group looked at the many activities the NIU LLI has developed over the past five years, including study groups, trips, social activities, organizational structure, finances, committees, etc. From the day’s work, four groups of significant strategic planning goals were developed: short-term routine, long-term routine, short-term complex, and long-term complex.

After the retreat, everyone individually reviewed these goals and assigned a priority ranking to each goal in each group. The lists were submitted to Greg for tabulation and preparation of a summary. The group will meet again, re-view this summary, and prepare a report for the NIU LLI Steering Committee, which will then report to members.

--Gilby Mehagan

Musings...(Continued from page 1)

Finances

The Steering Committee authorized the payment of slightly more than \$600 from the NIU LLI Foundation account to NIU to cover the NIU LLI operating deficit for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2006. This action was approved pursuant to a Steering Committee resolution passed in 2004 when the NIU LLI Foundation account was established. This is the first time in NIU LLI history that such a reimbursement has been required.

An operating deficit or shortfall occurs when the aggregate operating costs and expenses incurred during a fiscal year exceed the total income received during the same fiscal year. Obviously, to avoid future deficits, we

want to seek ways to maximize our revenues and minimize costs and expenses.

We continuously and diligently seek new members and try to retain all members to ensure adequate revenues. In addition, we are considering establishing a committee to seek and obtain grants and donations from sources outside of the NIU LLI. We also are exploring methods to cut our costs and expenses, such as exploring ways to more effectively use volunteer NIU LLI members to perform NIU LLI duties that have been performed by NIU personnel.

As my mother often said, "Many hands make light work." Please help when you can. Thanks.

**FOLK & MARITIME MUSIC OF THE GREAT LAKES:
A LEE MURDOCK CONCERT**



Thursday, January 18, 4:30-6:30 p.m. (Refreshments at 4 p.m.)
Heritage Room (2nd floor), Holmes Student Center, NIU
Free and open to the public

The Great Lakes tradition of inspiring artists is kept alive today by singer Lee Murdock. His musical portrait of life on the Great Lakes will be presented by the NIU LLI in conjunction with the winter term study group on the Great Lakes. Murdock combines ragtime, Irish, blues, and folk styles, accompanying himself on the guitar. "The old songs give us a window into the past, as if we can stand shoulder to shoulder with our ancestors, steering a schooner to safety or laughing at the antics of some novel character," Murdock reflects. "The new songs give us a sense of continuity with our heritage." This program is free and partially supported by grants from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency, and the DeKalb County Community Foundation. The public is welcome.

NEWS YOU CAN USE AT NIU LLI

EACH ONE, REACH ONE

While not each of us could convene a study group, each of us could introduce a friend to LLI. Every day is visitors day, 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 in the suggestion box.

SUGGESTION BOX

Have an idea for a study group? a convener? a field trip? a new member? a notable? Write down your idea, include your name if you like, and leave the information in the suggestion box that is on the hall table outside one of our classrooms. You can also leave your name in the box to volunteer for an NIU LLI committee.

WINTER 2007 STUDY GROUPS

- Profiles in Audacity: A Selective Study of Great Decisions & How They Were Made ~ Alan Wantroba
- Beware the Green-Eyed Monster: Shakespeare's *Othello* ~ Karley Adney
- Younger & Healthier Next Year: How to Turn Back Your Biological Clock ~ Carl Hays
- Four International Music Events ~ Paul Pawlowski
- Franz Kafka: An Apocalyptic Prophet ~ Heinz Osterle
- Great Lakes: Freshwater Highways ~ Dan & Joanne Dillman

G-O-O-D W-O-R-K

The NIU LLI spelling bee team of Pat Sibley, Pat Meghan, and Gilbey Mehagan delivered a good showing at Altrusa's fall community spelling bee, making it into the fourth round. Congrats to the trio for stepping forward!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- January 7 Bald Eagle/Figge Museum Field Trip
- January 16 NIU LLI Winter term begins
- January 18 Lee Murdock Concert
- January 19 Fermilab Lecture: "The First Steps on Land" Field Trip
- February 5 Behind the Scenes: NIU TV & Radio Stations Field Trip
- February 8 NIU LLI Winter term ends
- February 18 Meson Sabika/*Noises Off* Field Trip
- February 26 NIU LLI Luncheon

COMING THIS SPRING

March 13 – May 3 (all sessions 8 weeks, unless noted)

- Forensic Crime Scene Investigation (2 weeks) -- James Rossi*
What real forensic investigators do
 - Race in American Musicals (5 weeks) -- Paul Pawlowski
How Hollywood and Broadway stereotyped African-Americans
 - Sacred Places -- Steven Johnson* & Arlene Neher*
Holy places of different faiths around the world
 - Guns, Germs and Steel -- Walker Bowman
Based on the book on why and where complex societies arise
 - Baseball: Past and Present -- Dan Dillman
Origins, history, and myths of baseball and today's game
 - Gold, Diamonds and the Adamantine:
Buddhism and its Visual Expressions -- Richard Cooler*
Understanding Buddhist visual arts
 - J. Robert Oppenheimer and the Atomic Bomb Project -- Al Meyer
The life of a giant of modern physics
 - New Frontiers in the Life Sciences -- Laszlo Hanzely
Stem cell research, obesity, diabetes, bioengineering, new diseases
 - Achieving Whole Life Wellness (3 weeks) -- Rebecca Cohen*
The choices we make, or don't make, to stay healthy
 - Surfing the Web (2 weeks) -- Norma Wiley
Basics of using the World Wide Web
- * = new convener

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

NIU LLI Luncheon

Monday, February 26
11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Chandelier Room
Adams Hall, NIU

Members & Guests Welcome
\$13/person

The weather may be chilly, but 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>

CALLING ALL MEMBERS



The NIU LLI is member-directed, meaning that members make the decisions needed for a vibrant LLI. Please consider joining a committee -- curriculum, membership, notables, field trips, newsletter, or development. You not only will help to insure NIU LLI's continued vitality but also will enjoy working with other NIU LLI members. Contact the NIU LLI office at 815-753-5200, put your name in the suggestion box on the hall table, or contact a committee chair from the list in the course catalog.

INSURING OUR FUTURE

Now, and in the future, consider making a tax-deductible contribution to the NIU LLI fund at the Northern Illinois University Foundation in celebration of someone's birthday, anniversary, or achievement, in memory of someone, or just because you want to insure NIU LLI's future.

The NIU LLI established this account in 2004 to provide a tax-exempt means to donate funds to the NIU LLI to use for special programs or projects, such as making the NIU LLI video, purchasing equipment for NIU LLI use, scholarships, or other purposes. When we have \$25,000 in the account, we can make it into an endowed fund, using the interest for projects and keeping the principle working for us in perpetuity.

Make out your check to "NIU Foundation" and, very important, write "NIU Lifelong Learning Institute" in the memo line; then mail it to NIU Foundation, 1425 W. Lincoln Highway, DeKalb IL 60115.