Reports Validate Success on All Levels at LLI

Our “Energetic” 18th year lived up to its name according to all reports at this year’s annual meeting on June 5. Past Chair Nancy McKee opened the meeting for retiring Chair Bert Talcoff, who was unable to attend. At the same time Nancy noted Bert’s excellent performance as exemplified by being the driving force behind the Show Me LLI program, as superb writer of newsletter columns and enthusiastic student and everyday LLI contributor.

Butch Sterbenz, Interim Curriculum Committee chair, reported that the nine interest groups comprising the committee were thriving and continue to offer a wide variety of learning opportunities. Butch served nobly and effectively after Chair Dick Hyde moved to Atlanta. Tom Mitchell is succeeding as chair of this committee. Director Katie Compton summarized the annual report in a PowerPoint presentation and thanked our facilitators and volunteers for their important work.

Another important function of the annual meeting is the election of officers and Executive Committee members. Based on nominees recommended by the Nominating Committee, Karen Sterbenz was elected chair and Patricia Barrett vice chair for two years. Members-at-large nominated were Bettye Dew, Greg DiBlasi and Dan Ellis. All nominees were elected by acclamation.

After Nancy turned the gavel over to new Chair Karen Sterbenz, Karen said that she was honored and humbled to be elected and looks forward to working with Katie Compton, Kathy Piry and all of the committee members.

After comments in the open forum, the meeting was adjourned and everyone enjoyed a buffet lunch and visiting with friends.

250 Years of St. Louis History

LLI will mark the 250th birthday of St. Louis by offering seven courses devoted to our wonderful city. These include courses focusing on St. Louis history, music, science, architecture, films, and writing. One special program on “Famous Firsts of St. Louis” will be presented in November. Be sure to check them out in the Fall Course Brochure.
Fall greetings and welcome back to our fall term, my LLI friends. We had a great annual meeting last June at which I was installed as chair of the Executive Committee. Retiring Chair Bert Talcoff received sustained applause for his two years as chair. He did a great job steering LLI. Both he and we were sad that he could not attend his final meeting as chair.

The following members were elected to join Don Cohn on the Executive Committee: Bettye Dew (a one-year term) and Greg DiBlasi and Don Ellis (two-year terms). About three years ago, after the Steering Committee had grown too unwieldy for the work it had to do, a subgroup recommended an overhaul to maximize the ratio of energy to output. The result was a name change from Steering to Executive and the constitution of a much “leaner and meaner” group.

Under the aegis of LLI Director Katie Compton, the Executive Committee oversees and supports the all-important work of the Curriculum, Marketing and Membership Committees. Because of the effective work of all these groups and their subcommittees, we are a healthy, thriving organization.

Patricia Barrett was elected vice-chair of the Executive Committee. Tom Mitchell has agreed to serve as chair of the Curriculum Committee. Every interest group chairmanship is group and expect great things to happen in the two years of my tenure as chair.

As you may or may not know, my new job comes with a lot of meetings attached. First and foremost of these meetings will be with the new committee forming to plan and prepare for our 20th anniversary celebration that will occur next June. In light of the magnitude of this anniversary, we are holding off on our 3rd Trivia Event so we can direct all of our energy to our celebratory year luncheon. If you are interested in working on the Anniversary Committee to help us have the best time ever, please let Katie Compton know soon. This committee should be up and running by the end of the summer.

I look forward to the Fall Term. I’ll be glad to see and/or visit with each and every one of you. I’m going to remember to wear my nametag. You wear yours, too. May we all be back on campus again with young and happy hearts and minds!

-Karen Sterbenz
What a great year for LLI! In our 18th year nearly 1000 students took part in at least one LLI term. Eighty-nine facilitators (including 18 first-time ones) led 139 courses. We welcomed 219 new members—23% of our student body are new students!

We celebrated the year at our annual meeting in June and saluted all our wonderful facilitators with a special shout-out to:

- Helen Schrader, Dennis Smith, Ben Sandler, Karen Sterbenz, J.C. Hoener and Nancy Harvey – facilitators who have led classes at the Chesterfield City Hall this year.
- Karen Sterbenz, who facilitated 15 courses; Anna Amelung who facilitated 9 classes; Nancy Harvey who facilitated 8 classes; Helen Schrader who facilitated 7 classes.
- Jerry Kottler and Karen Sterbenz who have been leading the Reading The New Yorker course for over 15 years!
- Jane Elswick who hasn’t taken a term off from facilitating in 19 years!

We stopped counting how many courses facilitator extraordinaire Sue Wohl has led over the years since her first class in the spring of 1997, but we know it is well over 100. Since she has decided to “retire” from facilitating, we honored Sue with a trip down memory lane, a corsage and a special “Facilitator Emeritus” nametag.

These are just a few examples of the incredible dedication our facilitators demonstrate in organizing material, doing research, finding guest speakers, and facilitating discussion and learning. Bravo! Because we are a peer learning institute, it goes without saying that our students are very important as well. Here’s to our exceptional students who know that they are indispensable components in the LLI classrooms.

Many thanks to Norman Solomon for donating ink cartridges to our office; Irene Holmes for donating a much-appreciated vacuum cleaner; Kathy and Bos Irvine for giving us a stack of new Great Courses DVDs and tapes; and all those who have “recycled” their books by putting them in our “take one” basket in the hall.

I’m looking forward to seeing everyone back at school this fall, and I know you are, too!

-Katie Compton
LLI Director

To the Wonderful People of LLI

I can only say thank you, thank you, thank you from the bottom of my heart for the kind and generous notes, flowers, cake and kudos I received on Retirement Day!

LLI has been such an integral part of my life for the past 18 years – friends, learning, laughs, and socializing. Although facilitating is a fait accompli for me, I will still be a faithful member of LLI – going to classes, meeting new friends and keeping the old ones for as long as I can think, walk and talk!

Again, dear friends and fellow students, thank you, thank you, thank you.

-Sue Wohl
Awards Abound

Irene Cortinovis

The University of Missouri-St. Louis saluted Irene Cortinovis as a member of Women Trailblazers, noting that Irene was appointed the first director of the University of Missouri System Western Historical Manuscripts collection and University Archivist. She conducted interviews with early suffragettes for the Women’s History Collection and received a federal grant to expand the University of Missouri search for African-American historical material including interviews with Mississippi entertainment jazz musicians and early African-American baseball players, now featured in the Baseball Hall of Fame. She helped establish the UMSL Womens’ Center and also served as a former chair of UMSL’s Honorary Degree Committee.

Dr. Richard Aach

Clayton Alumni Association and Education Foundation inducted Dr. Aach into the Clayton Alumni Hall of Fame. Established in conjunction with the celebration of the 100th graduating class from Clayton High School in 2010, the association recognizes and honors the accomplishments of Clayton alumni who bring inspiration to the community.

Gene Spilker

Gene won seven Gold Medals, two Silver Medals and two Bronze Medals in a variety of track and field events at the St. Louis Senior Olympics Memorial Day Weekend competition. St. Louis is proud to host one of the most prestigious Senior Games in the country with the help of more than 200 volunteers and more than 1100 athletes participating in 90 events. Winning 11 medals is certainly impressive!
A Winning Combination: LLI & Shakespeare Festival St. Louis

LLI and Shakespeare Festival St. Louis once again presented a joint program. This year’s production and class were based on three plays (or two and one half plays, depending on how you look at it). SFSL presented “The Henrys”: Henry IV, parts one and two, and Henry V, allowing us to witness the maturing of Prince Hal to become the noble Henry V, “model of a Christian King” and victor at Agincourt and over the heart of Katherine, daughter of the King of France.

Jamie Spencer and Mike Nolan covered the plays as literature, and we had a spectacular round of visits from SFSL directors, actors, set designers, lighting designers, and, of course, the fight coordinator. As usual, we had our own personal performance of “Family of Kings,” by the touring educational company, with music, Falstaffian roistering and sword fights...theater at its finest!

Earth Science Meets Current Events

“Ten Reasons Why You Should Care About Earth Science” was the topic of this year’s Lawrence Jasper Lecture on March 24. Presented by Michael Wysession, Washington University Associate Professor of Earth and Planetary Sciences, the talk briefly described challenges like hurricanes, typhoons, volcanic eruptions, floods, droughts, mineral and water shortages, as well as the activities of more than seven billion people that confront today’s earth scientist.

The Earth Science Literacy Initiative was established to enable earth scientists to successfully predict hazards to humans and locate and recover natural resources making it possible for humans to flourish on earth. To further the mission and increase awareness, Professor Wysession led a group of scientists, using the National Science Education Standards, to develop criteria and materials for middle school and high school earth science education.

In addition to his position as professor of geophysics at Washington University, Professor Wysession, a leader in the areas of seismology and geophysical education, has authored over 50 research papers in seismology and over 20 textbooks ranging from elementary to graduate school levels. His awards include the Packard Foundation Science and Engineering Fellowship, the National Science Foundation Presidential Faculty Fellowship and the Innovation Award from the St. Louis Science Academy.
Who Can It Be?

Would you guess that one of our LLI fellows made his debut in Popular Mechanics in this photograph? His dad, being the inventive sort, created this bassinet in 1932, which proves once and for all, that it needn’t be a “hand that rocks the cradle” to make this fellow rock!

He grew up in a town near here, part of a large family which was comprised of many other inventive people. His oldest brother invented a mechanized pump that pumps water out of the ground and he sold the successful invention. His father owned a machine shop. Another brother worked in a lead mine in Bonne Terre, Missouri and later went to work in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, where he designed a mechanized dispenser for the bags astronauts used to collect samples of moon dust. All three of his brothers worked in some form of mechanical engineering.

As time went by, our classmate did some scuba diving in that mine where his brother had worked. He says he enjoyed the deep clear water left in the aftermath of the mine, which had closed after his brother worked there and had become a mecca for scuba divers.

Our classmate has had some challenging work and at times he had to adapt to change, but all of his assignments involved his favorite subjects – physics, chemistry and mathematics. After graduating from the University of Missouri, he was drafted into the army and sent to Frankfurt, Germany where he worked in artillery headquarters.

Our classmate has spent his life keeping up with the latest in his field. He acquired a master’s degree from Washington University and has worked for IBM in New York, Owens-Illinois in Ohio, and finished his working life at McDonnell-Douglas. Today you will still find him on a constant learning path right up to the present in our Lifelong Learning Institute. Can you guess who the mystery man is this time?

-Dolores Friesen

(The identity of our mystery person is revealed on Page 8.)

Mark Your Calendars

for

The Fall Address

Thursday, September 4, 2014

Chancellor Mark Wrighton

and

Provost Holden Thorp

will speak

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Creativity Characterizes Writers Showcase

The LLI Writers Showcase on May 2 opened with a performance of Prelude to Creation, an original one-act play written and directed by Dennis Smith. Actors were his classmates in the Art as a Muse class.

Talent continued to be exhibited as eighteen writers read examples of their work ranging from essays, memoirs and poems, to science fiction and fantasy. Topics included “Fishin,” “Reflections of a Baby Boomer” and “The Unmade Bed” to mention just a few. Listeners found selections to be creative, interesting and entertaining.

When everyone had had a turn, refreshments rewarded readers and listeners alike.

Trivia Fun and Fortune

The LLI Trivia Event, now two years old, was again very successful and raised $1700 for our Scholarship Fund! Special thanks go to Dean Robert Wiltenburg, who again emceed our event with style and wit, to Katie Compton who made sure everything came off as planned without a hitch, and all of the interest group chairs who provided us with the basis for the challenging and entertaining questions. Also kudos to J.C. Hoener and Rita Warren who kept us well supplied with coffee, water and popcorn, and to Ed Fullerton and Gale Murphy who scored the answer sheets and did so much more to help make the day such a success. When the Trivia Event comes back, plan to come! It’s not so much about answers as it is about the just plain fun of being together and flexing our aging mental muscles!

-Karen Sterbenz

Kathy Piry Reminds You...

You may not register by phone!
Please mail, fax or walk in your registration.

Wear your nametag
and keep it in-between terms!

Always display your silver LLI parking permit when you are parked in the garage (5th and 6th floors only.)
NEVER A DULL MOMENT AT LLI

JoAnne Leach and Jamie Spencer at the Facilitator's Workshop

Fred Goetsch and Larry Perlmutter, presentors at the Hexagon Spy program

Charlotte Manges and Edmund Acosta at the Facilitator's Workshop

Bob Streett appropriately attired in his Red Shirt in the Modern Italy class

Bob Wiltenburg and Jim Steffen at the Trivia Event

Steve and Myra Radinsky, Judy Courtney and Anna Amelung at the Jasper Lecture

Ruth McBrayer, Sally Kopman and Sue Estill at the annual meeting

Answer to Who Can It Be: Tom Hahs