

LLI CURRICULUM SPOTLIGHT
September, 2013

THE HIGGS BOSON: AT THE EDGE OF A NEW WORLD
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Berkshire Community College, Massachusetts

The recent discovery at the Large Hadron Collider of a new particle, most likely the long-sought “Higgs boson,” has captured the attention of the public and the media. The discovery has enormous impact on the future of scientific inquiry and national science leadership for our country. The funding and management of research and big science projects often necessitate government participation. What problems are caused? Should the U.S. begin building the next supercollider? This course will discuss the discovery and the more general implication of this type of science in our culture, and explore answers to related economic issues. Topics will include:

- Some basic concepts underlying modern physics; the particles and fields of nature,
- The crucial role of the mysterious Higgs field in our universe; what the Higgs particle is; the past, present and future of the Large Hadron Collider,
- Political and economic issues related to basic research and big science projects in particular.

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STUDYING THE REDWOODS
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Humboldt State University, California

Several courses over the summer have highlighted the plight of the California Redwoods for OLLI membership. They were:

Restoration & Renewal in Redwood National & State Parks – A field trip, led by a Park Ranger, to nearby parks highlighted the ongoing resource management projects covered during an earlier OLLI presentation by the Watershed Restoration, Forest Restoration and Prescribed (Friendly) Fire authorities.

Redwood Parks Coast History Tour – Participants joined a Park Ranger for a PowerPoint Tour of the history of three places along the coast of Redwood National and State Parks. They found out why the southernmost point in the park is called Gyon Bluffs, and heard three independent Yurok stories about the last huge tsunami produced by the Cascadia Subduction Zone. An account of the gold rush to Gold Bluffs was followed by the history of False Klamath Cove. The program ended with the establishment of Redwood National Park.

A Forest Within a City – Nearly all of the City of Eureka was built upon what was once an old-growth forest. There is scattered evidence of these redwoods through the southern reaches of the city, notably in Sequoia Park. This remarkable resource, surrounded by development, has an intriguingly interesting story going back more than a century.

This class included short lectures among the redwoods and an extensive walking tour of Sequoia Park and the Zoo. Highlights included natural history points of interest as well as evidence of human history using “photo companions” (reproductions of old photos).

Redwoods & Rails – This class traced railroading in Humboldt County from its beginnings in Arcata during the 1850s and followed its development with the major logging lines, the first intra-city connections, the once mighty Northwestern Pacific Railroad, and concluded with visits to what remains of this once extensive and vital means of transportation – buildings, bridges, equipment and more. Colorful and exciting stories were told. The class also rode the rails of former lumber company speeders at Samoa.

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FOCUS ON WRITING
Emeritus Institute, Saddleback College, California

This fall, Emeritus Institute will be offering members three ways to begin the creative writing process. Courses include:

Introduction to Creative Writing – An in-depth examination of the essentials of creative writing, including the basics of manuscript preparation, techniques of fiction, and nonfiction, and the various functions of writing tools.

Advanced Creative Writing – Offers an in-depth study of prose including organization, classification, comparison and contrast, cause and effect, as well as definition and development of non-fiction and fiction.

Non-Fiction Writing – Includes techniques and practice in writing nonfiction articles, essays and biographical sketches. Emphasis will be placed on writing for publication.

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FRIDAY COFFEE WITH...
Explorer’s Lifelong Learning Institute, Salem State College, Massachusetts

Discovering the Boston Harbor Islands – A virtual tour of the history and natural beauty of the Harbor islands nations park area, a valuable resource right in Boston’s backyard.

Some American History That We Didn’t Learn in High School or College – A discussion that makes the case that our country’s present problems are largely due to the American system of compulsory mis-education, amplified by a mythologizing mainstream media. Unable to learn the lessons of history, we now have economic apartheid, plutocracy instead of democracy.

Successful Aquaculture Operations in Massachusetts – A discussion of the Cat Cove Marine Laboratory in Salem, a research facility and operational aquaculture lab that raises freshwater and marine organisms, finfish and shellfish.

Since opening in April 1999, the hatchery has produced in excess of 20 million soft-shelled steamer clam seed. These seed clams have been transported and planted on sand flat throughout the state.

The JFK Experience: A Live, Multimedia Theatrical Event Focused on the Life and Presidency of John F. Kennedy – Their guest, a Kennedy historian and expert, recreates JFK’s unmistakable cadence, intonation and accent, delivers his speeches verbatim, answers questions from the audience “in character” and presents a historic slide show, audio narrations and more.

From Purgatory to Podunk: A Pictorial Journey Through the 351 Cities and Towns of Massachusetts – An informative, entertaining, interactive and illustrated program filled with anecdotes little-known history, hidden locales, and mishaps, by a retired couple who made a hobby of visiting every city and town in Massachusetts.

Wind Power: Blowing Across the U.S., New England and the North Shore – A historical and environmental perspective on wind power in the U.S. and local efforts to tap into this resource.

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GREAT MYSTERIES OF THE WORLD
Learning in Retirement, Waukesha County Technical College, WI

Over the course of five Thursdays in September and October, members of the Learning in Retirement program will be learning about the following mysteries:

UFOs – Where do they come from, why are they here and has the U.S. government captured UFOs and their occupants?

Bigfoot – What is “Big Foot?” Where is he seen? Wisconsin sighting will be discussed.

Jesus 18 Missing Years – Jesus life between 12 and 30 years of age is a mystery. Evidence of his life in India during this period will be discussed, as well as his possible life to age 100.

The Brain-Soul Connection – What happens after death. Medical-scientific evidence suggests where in the brain the soul may be located.

The Bermuda Triangle – The most incredible of all mysteries is discussed last. What is the Bermuda Triangle and how may it explain the strange disappearance of planes and ships off the coast of Florida?

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