

Road Scholar Institute Network
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
October 2014

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News from Road Scholar

Road Scholar Research: RSIN Member Survey 2014

Many of you (172 LLIs, to be precise) participated in last fall's Road Scholar Institute Network (RSIN) "Member Survey 2014." In that survey, we asked LLI leaders to report on various aspects of their LLI, particularly membership, administration and curriculum. An executive summary of the Road Scholar Institute Network's "Member Survey 2014" is available by [clicking here](#).

New Road Scholar Research

We're excited to announce RSIN's follow-up research project and we need your help. This year's 2015 survey will focus on creating a detailed profile of your LLI's rank-and-file membership and — by aggregating the results — creating the first-ever national profile of LLI members. The Membership Survey will measure attitudes about individual LLIs, gauge several indicators of healthy aging, and compile a deep demographic profile of LLI memberships. The survey itself was drafted by RSIN staff and circulated for review to LLI executive directors and research committee members from nearly a dozen LLIs from every part of the United States.

Please let us know by **Friday, Oct. 17, 2014** if you plan to participate. If you did not receive the invitation email, please contact network@roadscholar.org.

LLIs Welcome Road Scholar

On Thursday, Sept. 18, Road Scholar joined the **OLLI Loudoun** Open House — at its new facility at George Mason University at Loudoun. Members were able to tour the new facility and classrooms; enjoy delicious finger foods catered by Wegmans; and visit information tables for OLLI partners like Road Scholar. Road Scholar was also honored to be able to raffle a \$100 gift certificate to a future program.

If you are also looking for partners to attend new member events or have any other speaker needs, please contact Claire McGurn at 617-457-5554 or ambassadorprogram@roadscholar.org.

Road Scholar is Celebrating Our 40th Anniversary in 2015!

Next year, Road Scholar will celebrate 40 years of learning and friendship with 40 special adventures throughout the year. Each 40th Anniversary educational adventure will include top Road Scholar experts, unique field trips and activities, a celebratory gala dinner and a special gift for each participant. We're kicking off the New Year in Australia and ending the year in Cuba. In between, we'll be celebrating on continents and in countries around the world.

LLI Travel Study Programs

Joan Hardman-Cobb, Special Programs Coordinator for the **Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at North Carolina State University**, recently presented a workshop at the Southern Lifelong Learning Conference entitled "Secrets of a Successful Study Program." Joan shared with attendees the ways she develops educational itineraries, establishes mutually beneficial partnerships and evaluates trips to provide quality programs that generate income to help support her organization. She noted that offering a study program adds value for her members and serves as a recruitment tool to bring new people into her Lifelong Learning Institute because:

- It is educational travel that enhances the learning experience offered through the LLI.
- It offers additional socializing opportunities for her members to bond with each other and the organization.
- It is easy for members to participate because all the planning is done for them.

We know, however, that for those lifelong learning institutes with smaller membership bases, it can be challenging to get enough people to launch and sustain an exclusive travel program. Accordingly, Road Scholar will soon offer shared space consortium programs to Lifelong Learning Institutes affiliated with the Road Scholar Institute Network. It will provide LLIs with the opportunity to offer travel to any number of members as an added benefit and allow members to meet and travel with other lifelong learning enthusiasts. If you are interested in learning more, please e-mail us at network@roadscholar.org.

Help Out an LLI!

In last month's newsletter, Marjorie Varner from **Encore Learning** in Arlington, Virginia asked for your help on membership/registration software. Unfortunately, no one responded, so she is still looking for help! Marjorie wants to know if your LLI uses a purchased off-the-shelf membership/registration system or do you use custom software. If using an OTS system, would you recommend it to other LLIs? Please supply the name of the OTS system purchased and your brief evaluation. Please respond with your feedback and suggestions to Marjorie (varner@encorelearning.net) and RSIN (network@roadschaolar.org). We will post the responses in a future newsletter. Thanks everyone for helping Marjorie out!

News From Around the Network

On Saturday, Sept. 13, **Learning Institute at New England College (LINEC)** celebrated its 25th Anniversary at its Annual Meeting and luncheon. Sixty-three members gathered to celebrate the LLI's milestone and hear a presentation on the history of LLIs from Road Scholar Vice President of Institutional Advancement Steve Lembke. Congratulations to

LINEC on 25 years!

In August, **Lincoln Land Community College Academy of Lifelong Learning** welcomed Jamie Stout as the incoming Director of Community Education. Jamie brings numerous years of professional experience in nonprofits, management and youth programming. Prior to joining LLCC, she was the Director of Membership and Volunteerism for Girl Scouts of Central Illinois and was employed there for 13 years in various roles throughout her tenure.

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Coastal Carolina University has launched Arts for OLLI, a new feature this fall. Arts for OLLI is a silent art auction to benefit OLLI, as part of the OLLI fundraising strategy launched in March. Donations were received from teachers and students of many of the fine and functional art forms taught, including basket weaving, beading, calligraphy, doll making, drawing, fused glass, stained glass, mosaic tile, woodcarving and painting in colored pencils, pen and ink, oils, acrylics and watercolors.

Cheshire Academy for Lifelong Learning at Keene State College shares wonderful news for one of its instructors! Claudio Veliz, its Astronomy instructor, recently won an international competition to design an environmentally sensitive ski resort in Japan. Congratulations, Claudio!

Learning in Retirement at Iona College (LIRIC) held an Open House and reception on Sunday, Sept. 7 to preview fall activities and view an Art Show by LIRIC members.

At **Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at North Carolina State University**, members and instructors are invited to “A Cuppa OLLI,” to join staff and fellow members for coffee and tea. These are primarily social events, but at each session a topic of interest is introduced to members. This is a great way for new OLLI members to meet others and learn more about the program.

Also at **OLLI at North Carolina State**, members are invited to hear Raleigh Police Chief Cassandra Deck-Brown discuss “Reflections on Raleigh.” Chief Deck-Brown has broken several glass ceilings while coming up through the ranks of the local Raleigh Police Department to become Chief of Police. She will provide insightful discussion about her career, the greater mission of the Raleigh Police organization, and her vision as Chief of Police of a major city police department.

Lastly, from **OLLI at North Carolina State**, members are participating in North Carolina State's Common Reading Program, with an event to meet the authors and discuss the 2014 selection: *Tomorrow's Table: Organic Farming, Genetics, and the Future of Food*. Co-authored by Pamela Ronald, a geneticist, and Raoul Adamchak, an organic farmer, *Tomorrow's Table* is part memoir, part instruction, and part contemplation. The book argues that a judicious blend of genetic engineering and organic farming will be key to feeding the world's growing population in an ecologically balanced manner.

This past April, all **Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Saginaw Valley State University** members who had been a member for at least one year were either emailed or mailed a Member Satisfaction Survey. Those members who had given us their email (872)

were emailed the survey. Those that we do not have emails for (296) were mailed the survey. Our total response rate was 381 (33%).

Our OLLI has surveyed our members biennially since 2006. Many of the questions have remained the same so we have been able to analyze demographical and attitudinal trends. The following summarizes the responses from those who completed the survey by June 19:

- 92% of our members are fully retired, 6% still work part time and 2% are working full-time.
- 29% of our members are retired educators; 12% are retired nurses.
- 90% of our members still have a land line in their home.
- Only 10% of our members are officially snowbirds (leave Michigan for more than one month in the winter); 70% usually stay in Michigan all winter, and 20% leave for up to one month.
- 77% of our members have encouraged a friend or relative to join OLLI.
- History is the most popular class subject matter, with 21% listing it as their favorite.

On Sept. 3, members of the **Lifetime Learning Institute of Northern Virginia** had a forum presentation on “A Behind-the-Scenes Look at How Dogs Are Trained and Guide the Blind and Protect Autistic Children.” Sue Difhart, vice-president of Guiding Eyes for the Blind, explained how special pups, raised in the homes of volunteers, then advance to intensive guidance programs at the training school in Yorktown Heights, New York. What the dogs and the trainers experience is fascinating and little known.

Also from **LLI of NVA**, an interesting way for members to engage with Board members. Each month colored 3x5 “Ask the Board” cards are placed on tables throughout the Forum. Members use the cards to address any questions that you would like answered by the Board. Responses are posted in the first available LLI Newsletter.

At **UConn Adult Learning Program (ALP), Hartford County Extension**, on Sept. 3, Dr. Douglas Hyland spoke at the Fall Preview Meeting on the “New Britain Museum of American Art in the 21st Century.” Dr. Hyland has been Director of the New Britain Museum of American Art since October 1999. Dr. Hyland has helped organize over 50 national and international exhibitions of European and American art including “The Beginning of Seeing: Tribal Art and the Pictographs of Adolph Gottlieb,” which traveled to three other museums in the United States; “The Body Revealed: 200 Years of the American Nude,” and “Connecticut Impressionists,” all at the New Britain Museum of American Art. Recent NBMAA exhibitions include the works of Toulouse-Lautrec, Maurice Sendak and M.C. Escher from private collections. Dr. Hyland is also curating an upcoming exhibition on American Quilts scheduled to open Oct. 4, 2014. In 2006, Dr. Hyland oversaw the completion of a \$27 million capital campaign that realized the construction of the 43,000-square-foot Chase Family Building, which opened to critical and public acclaim. In May 2014, the museum broke ground for another three-story addition to house its growing collection of American art. The 17,345-square-foot wing will have seven new galleries and three new art studios.

On Oct. 23, **ALP** will hold its annual Social. This is an opportunity to welcome and make the acquaintance of new members and visit with other ALPers. The Social follows a lecture

from one of our favorite presenters — Professor Michael Park, Professor Anthropology at Central Connecticut State University, whose topic will be “Science and Popular Media.”

NEW CURRICULUM IDEAS

One of the benefits of belonging to RSIN is the national exposure we enjoy. That often translates into our learning about new and unique curriculum opportunities.

This month the LLI CURRICULUM SPOTLIGHT shines on:

- “Jane Austen and Her World” from Clement Manor Center for Enrichment
A look at Jane Austen’s life and times and how that is depicted in her novels. What was everyday life like for the various levels of society and where did Jane belong in it? What do the modern continuations say to us? Why do we read Jane Austen after all this time? Although we will look at all six of the major novels, we will skip around among them for themes and subjects that are present in many of them. This is not an in-depth course on the novels, and you need not have read them. However, we will start with the two most popular ones, *Pride and Prejudice* and *Sense and Sensibility*.
- “Throwing Fire: The History of Black Powder in Warfare” at Lifelong Learning Institute, NOVA Annandale Campus
The face of warfare changed 1,000 years ago with the combination of saltpeter, charcoal and sulfur to create black powder. Since its inception near the end of the first millennium C.E. and introduction to the European continent in the 1300s, black powder has been involved in nearly every military campaign and engagement that shaped and affected events and civilizations around the world. Learn the origins of its creation and the evolution of its use in military weapons and tactics from 1000 C.E. to the beginning of the American Civil War.
- “Klezmer Roots and Klezmer Toots” at The Evergreen Forum at Princeton Senior Resource Center
Come on a musical journey in sounds, film and story through this earliest of fusion music. Stretching from Istanbul to Ithaca (N.Y.), Haifa to Hollywood, Russia to Roseland, it is a world populated by draft dodgers (from the czar’s army), no-goodniks, and geniuses of the bent note rivaling Muddy Waters. In this music we’ll see how sounds can poke a finger in the eye of misery and dip into a tradition so rich we’ll have to go on a diet. Enjoy.

RSIN reads about so many outstanding LLI courses — too many to mention in this newsletter. Be sure to give them a read. [Click here](#)