UDLLI Receives 2016 Program Excellence Award from the Ohio Continuing Higher Education Association

On behalf of UDLLI on March 17, I accepted a 2016 Program Excellence Award from the Ohio Continuing Higher Education Association (OCHEA) during their annual meeting in Columbus.

The executive board of OCHEA annually presents awards to individuals and/or institutions that are making excellent program development contributions to continuing higher education in Ohio. Nominees must be members of OCHEA and may be an individual, an institution or several institutions working together; may be nominated by colleagues from their own institution, self-nominated or nominated by a colleague at another institution; must have two or more letters of support from individuals positioned to verify the nominee's role; and must be a credit or noncredit program implemented, or significantly modified, within the last three years.

As the founding director of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Dayton, I consider it a privilege to share information about our program with the OCHEA nominations committee. In addition to details about our structure, seminars and curriculum benefits for the Dayton community, I described our more recent establishment of the Connecting Generations and Cultures program. This program gives UDLLI members an opportunity to establish a connection between community organizations and the members' personal and professional life experiences, along with the new things they are learning in the UDLLI classroom.

Associate Provost Paul M. Vanderburgh accompanied me to the OCHEA annual meeting and awards ceremony. Paul provided a support letter for the nomination, and I am humbled by his kind remarks and observation. In the letter, he wrote: “First, Julie, who has led the institute since its inception 20 years ago, has attracted scores of volunteers who give of their time as moderators, liaisons, board members, and office helpers. This is part of the ‘secret sauce’ that makes UDLLI so vibrant year in and year out. Second, Julie's and the board's attention to detail have contributed to the highest standards of quality in program delivery. We have state-of-the-art classrooms and volunteer moderators, some of whom include former VPs, an Air Force general, community leaders and ex-CEOs. Third, the reputation of UDLLI in the Dayton region is absolutely stellar. Given that two-thirds of the 2,500 members of UDLLI are not University of Dayton graduates, the brand equity of UDLLI has blossomed in southwest Ohio. Fourth, the annual Osher Lifelong Learning Institute annual meeting always includes nuggets of reference to Dayton's program, a best-practice site.”

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Join Us for UDLLI’s Summer Program: May 12, Annual Meeting and A UDLLI Sampler; June 1, How the Brain Works

Now that the spring term is underway we are looking forward to the first of two summer sessions that will be kicked off Thursday, May 12, 2016, with our annual meeting from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Following the meeting Julie Mitchell, director of UDLLI, will introduce our keynote speaker, Dr. Paul Benson, interim provost of the University of Dayton. Dr. Benson will share with us some of his thoughts about the accomplishments of the University of Dayton in recent years, the plans for the transition as we welcome a new president on July 1, and ideas of what lies ahead for this new administration.

This will be followed by the appreciation luncheon for moderators from 12 to 1:30 p.m. All registered participants for the day are welcome.

The program, “A UDLLI Sampler,” will begin at 1:30 p.m. The program offers a representative potpourri of topics — an opportunity for you to sample new and different subjects. Be sure to bring a friend to this exciting array of subjects.

Each workshop will be one hour and will be repeated so you can choose two. Following are the workshop descriptions along with information about the second summer session on June 1:

**The Changing World of the Sports Media**
*Presenter: Bucky Albers*

Bucky Albers will review the changing landscape the media (the sports media in particular) have seen in the last 60 years. This will involve not only the evolution of various sports, but also of the many vehicles the media have used to report on their activities.

**State and Local Politics: The Process and Party Perspectives**
*Presenters: Patrick Flanagan and Dennis Lieberman*

Patrick Flanagan and Dennis Lieberman will discuss the history and current political process at the state and local levels from the perspective of both a Republican and a Democrat.

UDLLI President Tim W. Hrastar also authored a letter of support, and again I am honored by his generous compliments. Tim wrote, “I believe two of the most important things for achieving a satisfying and worthwhile life are learning and the development of social relationships; learning to be better at what you do, as well as learning for the love of learning. The development of strong bonds of respect with other people is part of the learning and teaching process — after all we are social beings. These two things are what draw me and thousands of others to the UDLLI program. Every minute one spends involved in this program provides these two stimulating ingredients to a successful life.”

In closing, I want to thank all of you — UDLLI officers, board members, consultants, moderators, volunteers, office staff and more — for your continued support of me, and for your hard work, dedication and tireless efforts. All of your strengths have made this state recognition possible.

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Biblical Tax Rate  
**Presenter: Rabbi Nochum Mangel**  
Taxation is almost always a hot political topic. It often happens that political figures will seek to promote their views by saying that they follow the model of taxation that God presented to Israel in the Bible. But do these politicians really understand the nature of Biblical taxation? We will take a close look at it in this class, and students will be able to then decide for themselves.

The Art of Collage Making  
**Presenters: Nancy Hatton and Christy Jennewein**  
Using decorative papers, stencils, paint and other objects, participants will create an abstract collage. If desired, the collage can be tailored to suit the color scheme of any room in a home. All materials will be furnished.

A “Hooded Capital”: Dayton and the Ku Klux Klan in the 1920s  
**Presenter: William Trollinger**  
The “second” Ku Klux Klan exploded into national prominence in the 1920s. While the original Klan was based in the South and concentrated its animus against the newly freed slaves, the second KKK was a national organization that expanded its list of social scapegoats to include Catholics, Jews and immigrants. Dayton was one of the great “hooded capitals” of the United States, and the Dayton Klan targeted — with fiery crosses and even with bombs — Catholic neighborhoods, churches and, of course, the University of Dayton.

My Life as Ersatz Barrister  
**Presenter: Dennis Turner**  
Dennis Turner will describe his experience of working with British barristers trying criminal cases in England. It’s sure to be fascinating and entertaining.

Wednesday, June 1, 2016, “How the Brain Works”  
Join us again for our second summer session, “How the Brain Works.” This is going to be an exciting program that will examine the latest information on the human brain and how it works. Local professionals will offer current research and practices in treating people of all ages with brain disease or injury to aid in healing.

We begin at 9 a.m. with a continental breakfast, registration and welcome introduction by Julie Mitchell. The program kicks off with the first seminar at 9:30 a.m.

Optimum Functioning: How the Brain Works  
**Presenter: Ann Anzalone**  
Affect the quality of your life by understanding how the brain works. Learn brain basics to optimize brain function. Learn four techniques to keep your brain healthy.

Exercising With the Brain in Mind  
**Presenter: Ann Anzalone**  
This session teaches practical techniques to keep your brain healthy, active and connected. The brain is continually wiring and rewiring. Experience three exercises to improve your thinking, develop memory and maintain focus. Discover five key practices to incorporate in your daily routine to keep your brain fit.

Lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. At 1:30 p.m., we will have the first panel discussion until 2:30 p.m., followed by a short break with the second panel starting at 2:45 p.m. and ending at 4 p.m.

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Panel 1 – Retraining the Brain  
**Moderator:** Linda Fischbach  
**Panelists:** Adrianne Johnson, Cheryl Wheeler and Kurt Jackson  
The panel will review some of the evidence on how exercise and physical activity can change our brains for the better.

Panel 2 – Healing the Brain  
**Moderator:** Tim Hrastar  
**Panelists:** Judi MacLeod, Eric VanVlymen and Dr. Bradley Jacobs  
Here we will examine different approaches to healing those people who have been compromised by brain injuries, either from birth or later in life. When looking at autism, learning disabilities, strokes and other brain issues, there is always a concern about how a person is able to communicate. What are the current — and the old tried but true — ways to help a person communicate with loved ones when the brain will not allow it to happen?

More details are available in the summer catalog or by calling 937-229-2347. Hope to see you all there for these exciting programs.

BRINGING PEACE CORPS EXPERIENCES HOME

In the 55 years since President John F. Kennedy created the Peace Corps in 1961, more than 220,000 Americans have served in 140 different countries. They have, sometimes under conditions of hardship, volunteered technical assistance in areas of education, agriculture, business, information technology, the environment and other areas of social and economic development. In assisting these men and women in meeting their manpower needs, these Americans are fulfilling the mission of the Peace Corps in promoting world peace and friendship by helping those in other countries to understand American culture and also helping Americans to understand the cultures of other nations.

Recently, Bill Meers and Priscilla Mutter brought broad background experience and interest to co-moderate the winter seminar Bringing Peace Corps Experiences Home. Both Meers and Mutter are active members of the Dayton International Peace Museum, and each is a participating member of UDLLI. Mutter currently serves on the UDLLI board of advisors. She describes her favorite roles as “tree hugger, bird watcher and peacenik.”

Meers is a key volunteer at the Dayton International Peace Museum, where he manages the member/donor database and email system. He has also played a role in the production of many of the museum’s exhibits. The museum recently presented an exhibit on the Peace Corps and featured several local residents who had been Peace Corps volunteers.

Peace advocates Meers and Mutter solicited the assistance of several former Peace Corps volunteers to serve as speakers in the UDLLI seminar Bringing Peace Corps Experiences Home. The 12 speakers in the seminar represented the years from 1963 to 1977 in Africa, Central America and Asia. Among the speakers were Bob Taft, former Ohio governor and current University of Dayton faculty member, who was in the Peace Corps in Tanzania in 1963-65; and Tony Hall, former U.S. congressman and ambassador to the U.N. agencies for food and agriculture, who was in the Peace Corps in 1966-67, teaching English in Thailand.

As moderator of the UDLLI Peace Corps seminar and key volunteer at the Dayton Peace Museum, Meers brought to the discussion vast experience in intercultural relations. A native of Louisville, Kentucky, Meers is a graduate of Transylvania University where he majored in sociology and French. He spent a year studying in France. Meers worked for the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights and also in Wichita, Kansas, for the National Conference of Christians and Jews (now known as the National Conference for Community and Justice).

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He spent 30 years as a federal civilian employee, retiring in 2004 from his position as public affairs specialist at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. During his tenure as a federal employee, Meers spent five years as an intercultural relations specialist in Italy and three years as chief of protocol with NATO projects in Turkey, Greece, Romania and the Slovak Republic.

“I am proud of being a lifelong advocate for human rights, social justice, interfaith understanding and peace,” Meers said. Currently, he and his wife, Mary Lou, serve as an International Friendship Family, working with foreign students who are attending the University of Dayton.

Is the Peace Corps fulfilling its mission of bringing positive images of Americans to people around the world? In answer to a query about how the native people have accepted the American Peace Corps volunteers, Tony Hall responded, “They love us.”

**UDLLI REMEMBERS JIM MADDEN**

Jim Madden was part of the very first unique group of UDLLI supporters. He passed away on January 11, 2016. Jim served on the initial UDLLI board of advisors and held the office of vice president. He was married to Pat Madden, our seventh UDLLI president and current UDLLI consultant and recipient of the Lloyd Richardson Award for Distinguished Service.

“In 1993, Jim was part of the first group of people to meet with Julie Mitchell and her predecessor to investigate whether the University could develop a program of senior learning in addition to, and somewhat different from, the programs already underway — the Senior Fellows program and Elderhostel,” said Dick Beach, UDLLI’s third president. “Jim was involved in a luncheon on the UD campus to which many in the community were invited to discuss the possibilities of such a new program. He was part of the first group which drew up, under the leadership of Lloyd Richardson, the guidelines for the development of UD’s Institute for Learning in Retirement (now named the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Dayton).”

“Jim lived and breathed the organization,” said Pat Madden. “Under Julie’s direction, he and the other pioneers mingled and met daily with UD’s faculty — to recruit moderators, obtain classroom space and sell the organization by word of mouth. They all worked closely with Julie and UD President Brother Ray Fitz, who did everything in his power to help the newly formed institute.”

Jim and the initial founders shared an unbelievable enthusiasm. Jim’s management skills — brought from his human resources experiences at WHIO — were a help to the institute and his time given to speaking engagements raised initial UDLLI awareness. Jim and Pat’s marriage produced four children and eight grandchildren and (to date) one great-grandchild. UDLLI is grateful for Jim’s generous contributions. He is deeply missed.
As a moderator, have you ever wanted to invite a guest speaker to your seminar, but that person was out of town or otherwise unavailable? We did just that in my UDLLI 2016 winter seminar featuring the Dayton Literary Peace Prize winners by using technology to overcome distance.

It started with an email from Sharon Rab, founder and co-chair of the Dayton Literary Peace Prize (DLPP). She commented that Josh Weil, author of *The Great Glass Sea*, winner of the 2015 award for fiction, might be willing to chat with the UDLLI participants in my winter session Dayton Literary Peace Prize Winners seminar.

Rab asked me not to announce the possibility until we knew Weil was available on the right day (the seminar met on Tuesdays at 3 p.m.). When Weil agreed to talk to us during the last seminar meeting (February 16), Mary Riordan and her trusty iPad entered the picture. Since I had checked with UD’s IT department and found that they could not support use of Skype in our classrooms, Riordan became the best hope for making this experiment work. (I was told that other UDLLI moderators have used Skype but was unable to find out who these technologically advanced people are.)

Thus, Riordan and I agreed to meet on the Thursday prior to the last meeting of my seminar. At that point, we didn’t have Josh Weil’s Skype name or his phone number, so Riordan attempted to contact her husband, Tim, who happened to be in downtown Dayton that day with HIS trusty iPad. Alas, although Mary and I could hear Tim’s phone ringing as we waited expectantly in River Campus’ Room 2060, the call never went through. Unsure that we would be able to connect with the author on Tuesday, I nonetheless received his contact information from Rab and arranged to meet Mary Riordan again at 11:30 a.m. on the day of the last seminar for a final attempt to make this idea work.

We called Weil at approximately 11:45 a.m. Eastern time, and he answered. Unknown to me at the time, he lives in northern California (where it was 8:45 a.m., and he happened to be watching his 1-year-old son at the time). The 1-year-old sat on his lap and watched our faces on the screen with fascination during the entire conversation, an added bonus for Riordan and me. After I let him know that the seminar participants had come up with about 10 questions for him during the previous session, Weil promised to be ready to answer them that afternoon (sans baby).

The actual Skype session began around 3:05 p.m. and lasted about 45 minutes. Josh Weil not only answered the questions previously turned in on index cards, but graciously agreed to take a few more spontaneous ones. As Meredith Moss (a seminar participant) reported in a *Dayton Daily News* article about the encounter, Weil acknowledged that *The Great Glass Sea*

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can be a difficult book to get through. “The first 100 pages are definitely slow-going,” he commented. Nonetheless, for those who persevered, the book has many rewards.

The personal contact with an award-winning author enhanced the DLPP seminar in ways that weren’t possible before the advent of Skype and FaceTime. All the participants, including the author (and his young son), seemed to enjoy the opportunity to learn more about the composition of *The Great Glass Sea*. Thanks to Sharon Rab, who made the contacts with Josh Weil, and Mary Riordan (and her iPad), it worked for my seminar, and it could work for many more.

*For those moderators who are interested in communicating via Skype, please contact Director Julie Mitchell at 937-229-2605.*

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**Items Good to Know**

- UDLLI encourages you to consider proposing a seminar for the UDLLI 2016 fall program, as well as encouraging others to do the same. If you are interested, contact Julie Mitchell at 937-229-2605. You will receive helpful and easy information on how to proceed with your proposal.

- The Office of Special Programs and Continuing Education is sponsoring two programs to Italy during the fall of 2016. “A Taste of Italy,” September 21–October 3, 2016, with hosts Andria Chiodo and Pat Dolan features Turin, Florence and Sorrento. “A Harmony of the Arts,” October 7–15, 2016, is a music trip with hosts Andria Chiodo and Linda Snyder. Both trips are in planning stages, but you can obtain more information by calling 937-229-2347.

- UDLLI is asking you to hold on to, and to reuse, your tent card and badge received from any previous seminars you attended. By issuing these items to “new” participants only, UDLLI will be better able to contain program costs. When you complete your seminar registration form, you will be asked if you need a tent card or badge.

- Thanks to UDLLI members who contributed to the winter food drive. Over 430 pounds of items were delivered to the Foodbank along with $200 in monetary donations. Your kindness and generosity help many! UDLLI will notify you of future food drives.

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*Suzanne Smith, UDLLI member and staff writer for *The Lifelong Learner*, makes a donation*
The Dayton Celebration Chorus, sponsored by the Office of Special Programs and Continuing Education, is currently wrapping up its spring rehearsal session. UDLLI will notify you when the next rehearsal session begins; however, if you would like more information in the meantime, call 937-229-2347. There is no audition and new members are always welcome. Directed by Dr. Linda J. Snyder, retired UD music professor, the chorus sings both sacred and secular choral literature along with American music. Rehearsals are on Tuesdays from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at St. John’s Lutheran Church at Fifth and Ludlow streets in downtown Dayton.

Did you play a musical instrument earlier in life? If you've never played, do you wonder what it would be like to start? UD's New Horizons Music Program, sponsored by the Office of Special Programs and Continuing Education, is designed for adults 50 and better who would like to learn to play or resume playing a musical instrument. The program includes a jazz band and various small ensembles. Weekly rehearsals are held at Temple Beth Or. For more information contact President Mark Thompson at 937-372-3263 or gearmark@aol.com.

Did you know that you can volunteer to be a seminar liaison for any of the seminars you plan to attend? Just call the UDLLI office at 937-229-2605 at the time of your registration. Training will be provided.

As a member of UDLLI, you qualify to obtain a membership at UD's RecPlex (a membership fee is required). The fitness facility offers a variety of workout options and programs. Contact the RecPlex main office at 937-229-2731.

WHAT I MISSED AT UDLLI WINTER 2016

Batter up, but I was unable because of knee replacement surgery — no running the bases for me: “little women” could not help me, the Peace Corps had no assistance, and even if Jesus could be found in science fiction, I was out of space. Yes, I was able to relive those doo-wop songs on Spotify, and try to walk on the dark side where my knee didn’t bend, but the garden was off limits and the election news just drove me crazy; I did write some of my memoirs while looking out the window; and my iPad took me to the Pacific Northwest to visit my son. Luckily, I did not become addicted to the Oxycodone though my wife had to drive the automobile for me, taking me to the doctor who gave me peace when she examined the knee and said perfect.

The fun of writing this poem comes when I can imagine so many eras: the Jazz Age, the Civil War, the Middle Ages, even Hitler, though that’s too unpleasant and I try Pilates and read a mystery.

In spite of the surgery, I remain secure in my balance and now can walk to the bread store and forget my blues at not being able to attend any seminars but still able to glance at the stars.

Gary Mitchner
MARK YOUR CALENDAR . . .

• “It’s a Grand Night for Singing!” Presented by the Dayton Celebration Chorus
  April 26, 2016, 5:30 p.m., University of Dayton River Campus: The concert includes sacred selections, musical theater, jazz and patriotic songs. Dr. Linda J. Snyder, retired UD music professor, is in her 10th season as director of the chorus. Following the concert, the audience is invited to a reception in honor of the performers.

Members’ family and friends are welcome. The concert and reception are free; however, you must register in advance at 937-229-2347.

• UDLLI 2016 Summer Program
  May 12, 2016: Annual meeting, moderator appreciation luncheon and afternoon workshops titled “A UDLLI Sampler.”
  June 1, 2016: A day of presentations titled “How the Brain Works.”

• UDLLI 2016/2017 Programs
  September 18, 2016: UDLLI Program Year Kick-Off Event, 1:30 p.m.
  September 19-November 11, 2016: UDLLI Fall Program
  January 17-February 27, 2017: UDLLI Winter Program
  March 13-May 5, 2017: UDLLI Spring Program
  May 11 and June 7, 2017: UDLLI Summer Program (May 11 includes the UDLLI annual meeting and moderator appreciation luncheon.)

• Special Program and Continuing Education’s Travel Programs
  September 21-October 3, 2016: “A Taste of Italy” (fourth time presented) hosted by Andria Chiodo and Pat Dolan, features Turin, Florence and Sorrento.
  October 7-15, 2016: A return to a few of Northern Italy’s cities while exploring “A Harmony of the Arts,” a music trip hosted by Andria Chiodo and Linda Snyder.

For additional information or to register for any of the above items, contact the Office of Special Programs and Continuing Education at 937-229-2347.
Photo Gallery

LIFELONG LEARNING DURING UDLLI’S 2016 WINTER PROGRAM