

ASSISTANT DEAN UPDATE

The Secret to Our Success



Julie Mitchell,
Assistant Dean,
Special Programs
and Continuing
Education

Learning is not achieved by chance, it must be sought for with ardor and attended to with diligence. – Abigail Adams

My friends, Abigail Adams would be proud of each of you because to me, the members of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Dayton are living examples of seeking opportunities for expanding knowledge and sharing it with others on a daily basis—and what a privilege for me to have the opportunity to work and learn with you.

UDLLI has enjoyed another record-breaking year. Achievements include continued growth in membership and seminars, the distinction of being an endowed program at the University of Dayton, and being part of 117 Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes representing 98,000 members world-wide. Our program serves as a national benchmark for adult education, and our work together makes a

difference in many lives.

An important part of serving as a national benchmark is being a good steward of resources. As members of UDLLI, I am sure you are proud to be the beneficiaries of conservative and conscientious stewards of the time, talent, and treasure you all share so willingly. Are you aware, however, that the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Dayton is one of the least expensive LLI's in the country, with a fee structure that is not only modest but provides you with the opportunity to register for as many seminars as you can schedule for a single fee. Many LLI's charge per seminar and most require all who participate to pay a membership fee in addition. Fee structures for LLI programs across the country are as varied as the seminars offered, ranging from almost \$1,000 per year to a structure similar to our program whereby a member can participate all year long and still pay less than \$300 with no limit on seminar selections. In the history of UDLLI we have only increased

our fees three times. Fortunately, with our relocation to the River Campus and subsequent reduction in transportation and shuttle costs, I'm happy to inform you that an increase in fees is *not* on the horizon for UDLLI.

We are a community of learners who, in keeping with the Marianist tradition of the University, foster a sense of family spirit by accepting each person with loving respect, acknowledging the value and dignity of every member.

THANK YOU ALL—our founding leaders and all who have come since, and our members and moderators past and present. The secret to our success is the partnership on which this program is founded, working together from the very beginning in the pursuit of a shared goal to provide exceptional learning opportunities for the pure joy of it.



Children's Traveling Opera for UDLLI

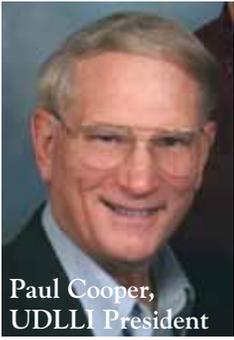
There is no experience like attending a live performance to learn to enjoy opera. UDLLI participants in Peggy Conner's *Enjoying Opera* winter seminar saw Bizet's *Carmen*, fully costumed and performed by the Opera Guild of Dayton's Children's Traveling Opera (CTO). This was only the fourth time that a CTO was performed for adults in more than 35 years, since the program is geared to introduce *children* to opera.



Scene from *Carmen*

Professional singer Tamra Francis, accompanied by pianist Marsha Enterline, sang the role of Carmen. Effie Sue Kemerley narrated, and Cindy Hoffsis transported the costumes and props. Fourth and fifth grade students from Shaw School in Beavercreek acted and pantomimed all other roles. UDLLI participants sang the choruses, like the well-known "Toreador Song." Recorded music provided other musical interludes and solos mimed by students in featured roles.

Guild volunteers made the costumes for the *Carmen*



FROM THE PRESIDENT

UDLLI Continued New Venue for the Summer Program

You and many other of our UDLLI members have provided the Board of Governors with some great suggestions. Last year we tried out a new venue for our summer program, which was met with overwhelming success. Previously, our summer program had lasted one or two weeks in June with a number of distinguished guest lecturers. Many of you were excited about the speakers and the topics, but did not want to attend because of the length of time and commitment in the summer when there are many family activities and vacation plans.

The new format, *UDLLI for a Day*, that we tried out last summer proved to be a great hit. This year we continued the offering—two exciting days for you to enjoy our summer program. On May 12, we presented *Healthcare and You*. With the many changes that have recently occurred in our nation's healthcare programs and with the high level of interest in the latest innovations, participants were spellbound listening to a panel discussion composed of some of the leading healthcare providers in the Miami Valley. On June 8, our second day featured *Developing the Miami Valley Region Together*. Participants enjoyed the discussions about the economic, social, and political developments in our evolving communities.

Give them food and they will come... Therefore, the May 12 session started with a continental breakfast and included the UDLLI Annual Meeting and Moderator Appreciation Luncheon. The June 8 session also started with a continental breakfast and included a cookout and tours at our new fall location on UD's River Campus (the old NCR World Headquarters building). Some participants used the day at River Campus as a great way to introduce friends, who have thought about UDLLI but were unsure of what it would entail, to the program. Remember, you are always welcome and encouraged to bring friends along on a one-day trial program...I am sure they will like it.

UDLLI for a Day!

UDLLI's Summer Program, *UDLLI for a Day*, approached quickly! The first of two, one-day sessions, *Healthcare and You*, May 12, 2011, took place at Kennedy Union, started with a continental breakfast followed by the UDLLI Annual Meeting, and ended the morning with a panel discussion on healthcare reform. At noon, the Moderator Appreciation Luncheon recognized the 2010/2011 moderators, followed with an afternoon line up of informative "healthcare" sessions presented by local leaders. Two of the breakout groups heard Alison Studer, RN, BSN, talk about "Osteoporosis, the Silent Thief," and athletic trainer Brett Hoffman explain how to "Be a Smart Cookie—Eat Up to Slim Down."

The 1700 Building on the University of Dayton River Campus (former NCR World Headquarters) was the site for the second, one-day session, *Developing the Miami Valley Region Together*, June 8, 2011. That day's events started with a continental breakfast, followed by guest speaker Paul Vanderburgh, Associate Provost and Dean, Graduate, Professional and Continuing Education, on "Commitment to Community: A Legacy in Leadership and Learning," and presenter Mike Shea, advisor to the Kentucky Senate President and the Republican Caucus, on "Learning from Louisville: Transforming Local Government." The noon-time treat included a cookout and tours of the 1700 Building. Afternoon guest speakers included Montgomery County Commissioner Dan Foley on "The Current State and Future of Regionalism," and Jeffrey Mitchell, the detective sergeant of the Lebanon Division of Police, on "Regionalization in Public Safety Services."

Children's Traveling Opera for UDLLI

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gypsy girls, soldiers, smugglers and the Toreador, and Bruce Brown, well-known in Dayton's theatre community, made the eight scenic drops. Props included wrapping paper rolls for the sword fights, and tambourines for the dances. Volunteers attend each program, dressed in black, with the job of explaining and prompting students who have roles in the opera.

The Opera Guild volunteers created the CTO program more than 35 years ago. They studied a number of operas for their appeal to children, and prepared scripts that fit into one-hour performances. Rossini's *Barber of Seville* has been performed in schools for the past three years, and this year begins a three-year schedule of *Carmen* for 24 performances. The Guild sponsors the programs and the schools pay \$100 to schedule the performances, which helps defray the cost. For schools with inadequate budgets, the Guild welcomes contributions.

Peggy Conner, moderator for "Enjoying Opera," is a long-time opera fan and former singer who prepares scripts and helps make costumes for CTO, including Carmen's sensational last act, red lace flamenco skirt. Peggy uses her knowledge of opera to present previews before Dayton Opera performances and other opera programs in the community.

Exploring Poets . . . and Poetry



Rosemarie Meyer, L. and Liaison, Peggy Farmer

From Sappho to Seuss and Dante to Dunbar, Rosemarie Meyer's winter seminar, *More Rhyme and Reason*, delved into poets' words and explored their forces.

Participants, who ranged from avid poetry readers to those turned off in prior learning and seeking to re-explore, brought their favorite poems to class to share. They read and discussed different poetry forms, including the narrative

ballad, the expressional lyric, or the French form, Villanelle, and studied poetry structure—*traditional rhymed verse* with patterns of rhymed ending words, or *modern/contemporary free verse* with varied rhyme schemes/patterns or none at all.

Ms. Meyer explained the elements of poetry—thought, mood, imagery, melody, and rhythm, suggesting readers write a one-sentence summary of the central “thought” for understanding; look quickly for words that imply a “mood;” search for “imagery” of vivid pictures; watch for the “melody” of harmonious sounds in rhythmic patterns; and identify the “rhythm” of the light and heavy syllables.

On reading poetry, she advises, “take your time.” Read the poem slowly once for understanding. Then read it again faster, to grasp the whole meaning. Ms. Meyer says “poetry that doesn't rhyme is not as much fun to some. It doesn't sing.” However, she encourages the exploration of all poetry forms, structures, and figurative languages.

Ms. Meyer introduced guests, such as James R. Brooks, a Chaminade-Julienne H.S. English teacher, who read from his publication, “Leaning into the Wind,” then led the participants in a fun exercise on how to write a contemporary poem from lists of quickly jotted-down activities and associated words.

The recommended text for the seminar, and one that Ms. Meyer recommends, is “Sailing Alone Around the Room,” by Billy Collins. “It was fun to learn about Billy Collins” said attendee Ann Tomsen. “This seminar has reawakened my love of poetry.”

Rosemarie Meyer earned her bachelor degree in education and master's in English from UD where she taught freshman composition for three years. She was the English department chair at CJ for 10 years, and is a member of the Dayton Holocaust Education Committee and a docent at the Holocaust Exhibit, Air Force Museum. Rosemarie writes for the UDLLI newsletter.

Judges Discuss Today's Controversies

You don't have to look far for a controversy these days. In fact, a civil discussion of today's controversies was held here at McGinnis during UDLLI's Spring Session.

Two former judges of the Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas collaborated to conduct a four-week course entitled “Current Controversies.” Judge Patrick J. Foley and Judge William Mac Millan arranged for a UD law professor and four Dayton lawyers to present their views on our right to privacy, our right to free speech, and the moral and legal basis of capital punishment. In addition, Dayton Police Chief, Richard Biehl and a group called United Against Violence outlined their efforts to curb violence.

The four week session focused on the application of the principles of rights to the current problem and the controversies that surround them. One contentious controversy surrounds the death penalty and its application to certain members of our society Judge Mac Millan explained. He also said, facetiously, that he hoped there would be insufficient reason to have Chief Biehl attend each session to keep order during the question and answer periods.

Both judges are Dayton natives; they are both Notre Dame grads and have served as Montgomery County judges, and both have retired from the Court of Common Pleas. Judge Foley has been involved with UDLLI for eight years and is chair of the Policy Committee for UDLLI. He is married to his wife, Joan, and the father of two sons. He also mentors students in Dayton Public Schools. “Young people need to be influenced toward peaceful resolution of arguments,” Foley said.

Judge Mac Millan has been attending seminars at UDLLI for four years and has been a liaison. He and his wife, Lois, live in Kettering at One Lincoln Park where he heads the entertainment committee and conducts monthly topical discussions for the residents. Both judges are retired skiers and Judge Mac Millan is an active musician.



Judge William Mac Millan



Judge Patrick J. Foley



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The Lifelong Learner newsletter promotes and provides communication about the UDLLI and related activities.

Read the newsletter online at
udayton.edu/continuingeducation

Don't Miss . . .

UDLLI 2011 Fall Convocation

Sunday, September 18, 2011.
Invitations will be mailed.

UDLLI 2011 Fall Program

September 19 – November 11, 2011

UDLLI 2012 Winter Program

January 9 – February 20, 2012

UDLLI 2012 Spring Program

March 19 – May 11, 2012

Other Learning Programs through Special Programs and Continuing Education

Senior Fellows to audit graduate and undergraduate UD courses; Elderhostel for educational programs each summer; New Horizons Band to learn or re-learn to play musical instruments.

For additional information, call 937-229-2347.

UDLLI Exhibits Art at McGinnis

Twenty-two UDLLI members and moderators exhibited art works in the McGinnis Center main hallway during the show, "Visions of Experience; the Art of Lifelong Learning."

Works included paintings, wall hangings, photography, drawings, and art sculpture.

Sponsored by Special Programs and Continuing Education in partnership with ArtStreet, the event opened with a reception on March 21, and ran from March 21 through April 28.

UDLLI thanks the artists who participated in the show and appreciates their valuable efforts and contributions to its success. The art, accompanied by statements from the artists about their works, brought much enjoyment to the viewers during the spring session.



Trout Stream, acrylic painting by Tom Leist