

LRI Times



Broadening Horizons Together

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Why the LRI Times?

Ever wonder why you receive one issue of the *LRI Times* each term, as well as the weekly news sheet, *This Week at LRI*? When I first became chair of the LRI Publications Committee earlier this year, I wondered the same thing. Why were there two newsletters?

I've since come to realize that *This Week at LRI* is perfect for short announcements and notices geared to what you need to know this week or next week. But there is other information that would be useful to you or of interest to you as an LRI member and a member at large of the George Mason University community. Some of these items are less time-sensitive than items in the weekly news sheet; they're of continuing interest but not geared to a particular week. Some of them are too long to fit in a weekly sheet, and some of them need to become part of LRI's permanent history.

That's where the *LRI Times* comes in. We'd also like to highlight what's of interest to you. This may be the place to explain something you've always wondered about, or the spot for that feature you know you could write. The LRI Publications Committee is open to ideas for articles or drafts of articles. We'd enjoy hearing from you.

Carol Henderson

From the President Down the Road

By the time you read this I will be back, with other LRI members, from the LLI (Lifelong Learning Institutes) Regional Conference that was held October 19-21 at Virginia Beach. No, it was not a

boondoggle. We worked hard at presenting papers, sharing ideas and absorbing information on the experiences of other LLIs. I was proud to tell colleagues about our great LRI program—660 members, including over 100 new students—and the vitality and strength of LRI.

On the way back, I considered where LRI is heading in the future and what some of the challenges might be. One is to ensure everyone is having a positive, enjoyable and productive experience and that both new and returning members make new friends, share learning together and feel comfortable at both Tallwood and Reston. Sometimes I wish I had more time to get well acquainted with everyone. Good ways to get acquainted include becoming involved as an LRI volunteer or instructor, and through courses, activities and social room conversation.

Another LRI challenge is to make sure everyone has an equal and impartial opportunity to get into any and all of our classes, special events and activities. Our dedicated staff does a highly professional job of ensuring that all decisions on class assignments are handled objectively and impartially. It is LRI's pledge to you.

Then there is the challenge of space and parking, especially at Tallwood. We are pushing the limit on attendance; lots are full; and occasionally, even cookies are in short supply (now that is a crisis). We appreciate your patience if you are encountering any difficulties. LRI's new Facilities Committee is doing a great job looking at longer-term plans, exterior and landscaping needs, improving the ambience and décor of our

classrooms and social space, and developing plans for additional handicapped parking.

One important partner in planning is George Mason University, our sponsor, landlord and benefactor. Several of us will be meeting with senior-level GMU officials in mid-November and will have the opportunity to discuss the future of Tallwood House. As of this writing, it is unclear whether the building will be renovated or torn down. We obviously have strong LRI interests there, particularly with the bathrooms, copier space and utility wiring. LRI has other interests and needs, and these issues will be discussed. We will say thank you to the GMU leadership and recognize the many ways GMU officials and departments work to help LRI run smoothly. The meeting is also an opportunity to recognize our activities that support GMU. Our appreciation goes to GMU President Merten and all the interested leaders, professors and staff at GMU that help make LRI function effectively.

I continue to appreciate what our LRI teachers, volunteers, staff, contributors, donors and fellow students do to enrich our lives. As I head down the road, I want to say thank you to all the folks who make LRI so great.

Bob Bohall

The Treasurer's Corner

I am pleased to report that LRI has adequate funds to carry it through its December 31 fiscal year end and that total actual expenditures at this time are in line with the 2003 budget. Our members and the Development Committee have done themselves proud by raising over \$20,000 in contributions this year to fund our budgeted capital equipment/ technology needs and our GMU scholarships.

Your continuing monetary and volunteer contributions throughout the year are critical to LRI's success, and I thank you for your support. Spreading the good news about LRI to your friends and neighbors is also important to our success, and we appreciate your recruiting efforts as well. We have begun the 2004 budget process with the goal of continuing to budget expenditures commensurate with the objective of providing you with meaningful high quality lectures, special

events and other programs. As soon as possible after the board approves the budget, I'll get back to you with another report.

Until then, thank you again for your support, and if you have any questions concerning our financial position, please contact either me or another member of the finance committee: Charles Duggan, Don Igo, or Janet Meisenhelder.

Don Yesukaitis

Be a Mason Mentor—Update

The program got underway on September 24 when several GMU officials briefed an attentive LRI audience about the four activities in which our members can volunteer—English Conversation, University Writing Center, UNIV courses, Dream-Catchers. (These activities are described on page 19 of the fall 2003 LRI Catalog.) Thirteen new LRI volunteers signed up, several for more than one of the activities.



Joan Crawford of GMU's English conversation program with four students in the ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) classes.

English Conversation is an established program, with 13 LRI volunteers—it could use additional volunteers. The other three activities have also attracted interest. Small working groups are being formed of interested LRI members to work with GMU and, in the case of Dream-Catchers, also with Fairfax County Public Schools, to develop and enhance the roles that LRI can play in these other activities. There is still need for more volunteers to help out in these areas. If you are interested, phone Michael Styles at 703-250-9604

or email mhstyles@att.net. Look for further announcements about Be a Mason Mentor.

Bob Bohall on the LLI Conference

This is Your Life, Live It was the upbeat theme of the highly successful Lifelong Learning Institutes 2003 Mid-Atlantic Conference, October 19-21, at Virginia Beach. With 150 representatives of 28 LLIs, predominately from the region but ranging from Maine to Florida to Arizona, the program focused on three general and 14 concurrent sessions of issues and topics of interest to LLIs.

LRI-GMU speakers on panels included Bob Bohall (Publications), Jan Dewire (Life as Part of a Campus and Intergenerational Activities), Eileen Duggan (Money: Finances and Funding), Michael Styles (Relationships with Sponsors) and Don Yesukaitis (Are You Sufficiently Insured and Should You Incorporate?). Other interesting sessions included Recruiting Members and Marketing, A Place Called Home, Finding and Keeping Facilitators Leaders and Volunteers, How to Plan and Provide Stimulating Curriculum, and Encouraging New Leaders.

An informative address, The New EIN and Elderhostel, by Nancy Merz Nordstrom, Program Manager of Elderhostel Institute Network, included an overview of the EIN Website. EIN now has over 319 affiliates, and there are an estimated 500 organizations in the US and at least another 500 internationally engaged in lifelong learning.

Coupled with a few moments for beach walks, the participants of the Conference came away with new ideas, a perspective on the differences and similarities between our LLIs and a sense of the vitality, interest and growth of lifelong learning. It was a positive and useful meeting.

Life as Part of a Campus and Intergenerational Activities

Board member Janice Dewire recently spoke on LRI's various intergenerational activities at the Lifelong Learning Institutes 2003 Mid-Atlantic Conference at Virginia Beach. LRI Program Coordinator Carol Ferrara helped her put together a list of the recent ways in which LRI is enriched by being part of the GMU campus community and

by working with Thomas Jefferson High School. The Publications Committee felt this list should be shared with LRI members.

GMU Contacts

- Dean Janette Muir, Dean of New Century College, has taught intergenerational courses and also worked on joint projects. She was scheduled to talk on October 23 to encourage LRI members to go with her and some GMU students to New Hampshire to get a first hand look at the primary there this winter.
- Students in a class on Event Planning worked with us to plan the LRI Celebration of Lifelong Learning Lunch that was given on campus. They did room setup, table decorations, menu planning, printed the programs and acted as hosts. LRI will work with them again this year.
- Each year LRI gives several scholarships to GMU students. Those students spoke to the LRI members at the LRI Celebration of Lifelong Learning Lunch.
- Graduate students in psychology have requested participation from LRI members for studies and then have come to talk to LRI about the results.
- GMU students have staffed the LRI office to help with the workload. Some were paid, and others were unpaid interns.
- GMU drama and music students have performed in some LRI classes. In turn, LRI members attend many of their performances on campus. This semester over 100 people signed up for a student production of "The Heiress" on campus.
- LRI members help individual GMU students on campus. There are several ongoing programs and also some new additions this fall. LRI members have worked with non-native English speakers to help them with their English skills. LRI members have also worked with the University Writing Center to assist students with their writing
- Fall for the Book, a joint project between GMU and The Washington Post brings writers

to campus to discuss their work each fall. This year, two of the events were held at Tallwood. This allowed LRI students and GMU students, as well as the general public, to learn the ins and outs of writing and getting published.

Non-GMU Intergenerational Activities

- Students from the Thomas Jefferson High School of Science and Technology participated with LRI in an intergenerational writing class. The stories that resulted are being published.
- Thomas Jefferson High School students do individual scientific research at prestigious institutions in the Washington, D.C., area; the Naval Research Labs; NASA; NIH; etc. Some of these students came to talk about their research as a one-time lecture in the LRI Science Topics class, which features different scientists speaking each week. The high school students were very well received.

- A visually impaired high school student was an intern at LRI for a semester. She brought equipment with her that allowed her to use the computer, and she helped with office work.
- Informally, an LRI computer teacher brought her son with her to class. He became a "floater," showing members how to use the computer software. His presence was helpful, and LRI members enjoyed having him help with the class.

LRI Holiday Party

This year's LRI holiday party will be at Pender United Methodist Church, at noon, Friday, December 5. Look for the flyer in any classroom and mail in the reservation form at the bottom along with a check for \$15. Or, take your reservation and check into the LRI office in person. If you have any questions, please call me.

John DeVoll

Welcome, New Members

Joan Agnew	Jean Downey	Chris Mayo	Rosemary Sherburne
Kathryn Allen	Maggie Duncan	Judy McMillan	Susan Sheridan
John Allen	Moira Eisele	Michael McNamara	Maxine Sherwin
Ruby Armstrong	Judy Erickson	Janice Meadows	Marlene Skinner
Mary Baker	Peggy Ferguson	Maureen Melton	Charles Skinner
Joanne Barreca	Sandy Fitzsimmons	Emily Melton	Pauline Stephens
Pete Bellaria	Wilvia Galbraith	Ginny Moser	Anne Thompson
Michael Benton	Ann Garson	Bill Naughton	Jacqui Tucker
Marge Bradley	Nancy Giannasi	Margie O'Brien	Jane Udelson
Roger Brewster	Patricia Griggs	Carolyn O'Connor	Billy Varnon
Laura Brewster	Deborah Halverson	Fran Pascarella	Susan Voss
Joanne Brown	Karen Holmfeld	Vickie Poulakis	Paul Wackerbarth
Eddie Brownman	Francis Howard	Diane Rickard	Sharon Waiss
Elizabeth Crawford	Sharon Howard	Marilyn Rogstad	Bob Waters
Vandelyn Czika	Bill Hunt	Susan Safran	David Watson
Esther Daniels	Judy Hunt	Carolyn Sanders	Marilyn Weis
Dick Davis	Geraldine Lash	Paul Scesney	Marlene Whiteley
Ginger DeLuca	Dorothy Lewis	Louis Seelig	Charles Wight
John Dietz	Elizabeth Loweth	Barbara Selzer	Caroline Wilson
Donna DiRicco	Phyllis Matthews	Joanne Shenk	Judy Wilson
			Helen Yarbrough

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