The LLI is indeed a special place. When Linda M. Maurice, M.A., asked me to devote my column to the 40th anniversary in this edition of the newsletter, I considered describing the reasons why the LLI is so special. Those of us fortunate enough to have found this place and incorporated it into our lives are well aware of these benefits, and are enormously grateful to the life enhancements the LLI brings.

Because the enhancements are so profound, our little secret was bound to get out. So it is no surprise that we have seen almost a 300-percent increase in membership in the last 5 years and the demographics reveal the average age to be 10 years younger, while the male-to-female ratio is almost equal.

Many factors have contributed to this explosive growth, including the commitment of George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D., Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D., M.Sc., and Elaine M. Wallace, D.O., M.S., M.S., M.S. I must also recognize the direction of Linda Maurice, her interns, and her office staff of Heike Dosé, B.A., and Beth A. Allen, M.S. This explosive expansion is also due to the tireless efforts of the devoted members of the MAC with whom I have had the privilege of working with over the past six years, since its inception. Without them, much of what the LLI has become would not have been possible, and I will use this forum to thank all of them for their service of this institute that we all love so much.

Just what is it that makes this place the joy that it is? In thinking about this, I remembered a column I wrote in the spring of 2014 that addressed the many wonderful ways there are to learn and grow and how the LLI has enriched the lives of our members. Our members know there are so many satisfying—and not-so-secret—ways to learn and grow at the Lifelong Learning Institute.

Happy anniversary, LLI! I wish everyone many more to come as we continue to enhance our lives and the lives of those who will follow.
CELEBRATORY COMMENTS

CONSIDER THE EVOLUTION
OF LEARNING AND THE
ENRICHMENT OF FRIENDSHIP

By Edward Aqua, Ph.D., LLI Director Emeritus (2003–2010)

Forty years is a wonderful time to look back at history and into the future. Arriving in 2003 as the new LLI director, I found a membership that took great pride in the opportunities for learning, friendship, and participation. Classroom programs were well attended, enjoyed, and displayed a strong commitment to lifelong learning.

Looking back to my seven years, I take great pride that the LLI has strengthened its university engagements, now as an integral part of the College of Osteopathic Medicine and the other colleges of the Health Professions Division, with continuing support to the education of NSU students. The LLI outreach beyond the campus has given greater recognition of the resources of NSU within Broward County. A far greater number of residents at independent living and continuum-of-care locations now benefit from the presentations of the LLI faculty members/representatives.

It is these dual recognitions both within and beyond the campus of NSU that give me much optimism that the LLI will be able to enrich the lives of a greater number of active, older adults in the future. During a quick drop by to the LLI at lunch and with the Book Club, the new members made me feel welcomed, and I became nostalgic to be remembered by my old friends.

My final thoughts include thanks to Abraham S. Fischler, Ed.D., for his perspectives during my early years, especially in setting achievable goals for the LLI. My gratitude, and my recognition that any successes of my period of tenure at the helm, would have not occurred without the guidance and support of Heike Dosé: Vielen Dank! Ditto for the willingness of Linda Maurice to take my mentoring as sincerely as I offered it—and combine it with her spirit and commitment to keep the LLI program as vital today as it was in its early days.

THE DIRECTOR TURNS HER DREAMS TOWARD THE FUTURE

By Linda E. Maurice, M.A.

With such eloquent words by Stuart Farber, Edward Aqua, and our dear Maxine Jordan, I will only add a few thoughts.

When Abraham Fischler envisioned this university as a lifelong learning entity from preschool through maturity, he set the wheels in motion and created the LLI in 1977. NSU celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2014, and now we celebrate 40 wonderful years. I am constantly in awe of the passion for lifelong learning that I see around me every day when I come to work. Hopefully when I am “mature enough” to retire, I too will enjoy the benefits of a program as wonderful as the Lifelong Learning Institute.

As for the LLI’s future, well, I have dreams. Whether it be an NSU Center for Positive Maturity, including a University-Based Retirement Community, or a continuously growing and expanding LLI on and off campus, my belief is that our beloved LLI will flourish in one way, shape, or form. In my estimation, the most important thing we can all do for this program is to never rein it in. While change is sometimes difficult, adding new ideas and concepts has always held us in good stead, so I believe we should always strive to embrace new potential, even if it takes us outside of our comfort zone.

Thank you President Hanbury, President Emeritus Fischler, Dean Wallace, Dean Emeritus Silvagni, Chancellor Lippman, Dr. Farber and the LLI MAC, Heike Dosé, Beth Allen, Barbara Norgren, Samantha Bergoine, Kiersten Monahan, and Alyssa Navarro. There would not be a Lifelong Learning Institute without all of your efforts and dedication.

Happy 40th!
In 1995, I retired from a long career in communication, advertising, and publishing. Several people told me about the little-known group sponsored by Nova Southeastern University—the Institute for Retired Professionals (IRP). It was then a weekly, three-day, seven-month program of lectures and presentations by NSU professors and others. After attending two lectures at the Alumni Center on 9th Avenue in Fort Lauderdale, I decided to join the welcoming group.

Soon, I was asked by David Millman, the director, to take over a writing group whose leader had become ill. The group became today’s Writers’ Workshop, now in its 21st year.

A year or so later, NSU moved the institute to University Park Plaza under the sponsorship of the Farquhar College of Liberal Arts, led by Norma Goonen, Ed.D., dean. We had an advisory board of officers, and I was elected president. We changed the name of the group—from IRP to ILR—the Institute for Learning in Retirement (ILR)—eliminating the confusion caused by the word “professionals.”

I traveled to Washington, D.C., for an Elderhostel convention of similar university retirement programs. After questioning many participants, I was surprised to learn that ours was the only group using professional speakers; the others assigned peer members to deliver their programs.

When Millman was transferred, Goonen asked me to become the interim director of the ILR, and for three years I recruited speakers and scheduled programs with the help of our wonderful Heike Dosé, whom I interviewed and hired.

Among our favorite presenters in those days were Tim Dixon, J.D.; Gary Gershman J.D., Ph.D.; and Vincent Toscano, Ph.D.

40th The LLI Tribute Fund

With the support of generous donations from LLI members and other supportive individuals, the LLI has been able to utilize this fund to help with much-needed “extras” (items not covered in the regular administrative budget), speaker fees, and scholarships. Please consider a donation in honor of the LLI’s 40th anniversary. Any amount is appreciated.

TO MAKE AN ONLINE DONATION TO THE LLI TRIBUTE FUND
(for check/cash see blue booklets at the LLI)
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If anyone is interested in a larger donation or potential endowment, please see Linda Maurice or email lmaurice@nova.edu.
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