Move over, Silicon Valley. There’s a new tech giant in town.

If you’re a creative thinker with even the germ of an idea for an exciting new product or process you’d love to bring to market, but can’t see relocating to northern California just to get started, think again. All the business advice, technological expertise, and investor connections you will ever need are now in your own hometown.

A new, expansive, cutting-edge, and destined-to-be premier technology incubation center has opened on Nova Southeastern University’s (NSU’s) Fort Lauderdale/Davie Campus. It’s the latest, and perhaps greatest, of uber-creative NSU’s community-oriented public/private partnerships.

You likely visited the site many times already to borrow books, do research, and attend exhibitions and cultural events, because the 54,000-square-foot Alan B. Levan | NSU Broward Center of Innovation is located on the fifth floor of our beloved Alvin Sherman Library. That floor was sitting empty, waiting for additional books to fill the shelves.

But then progress radically shifted consumer demand to e-books and online alternatives in the two decades since the library was built. So our always forward-looking university leaders decided to rededicate and redesign the entire fifth floor into a welcoming, high-tech destination for all of South Florida—and beyond. What could be more relevant to business, medical, computing, and engineering students, as well as the community at large, than a tech hub focused on innovation, new technologies, and entrepreneurship?

The Alan B. Levan | NSU Broward Center of Innovation (Levan Center) is up and running, with personally designed incubator and accelerator programs, coworking and meeting space, technology certificates, specialized workshops, courses and seminars, along with ongoing professional networking and social events.

Apply with your original idea on the center’s website at nova.edu/innovation to be considered for the free, four-week, entry-level Ideate program. If you’re further along, you can be considered for the six-week Incubate series. Both programs are fully funded. The next step? Individualized accelerate and post-accelerate programs.

The Levan Center offers myriad perks and opportunities. If you missed the “Tech Talk” on South Florida’s Need for a Center of Innovation presented by John Wensveen, Ph.D., NSU’s chief innovation officer and the Levan Center’s executive director on January 18, scroll down to the Lifelong Learning Institute (LLI) class recordings in Linda’s weekly announcements and enjoy the show.

Many who attended were completely blown away and intend to watch the presentation again, while some may even apply for the program. When it came time for questions, several LLI members brought up unique, creative ideas to help solve a world problem. When they lamented about being too old to participate, Wensveen instantly cited an 87-year-old entrepreneur who visited the Levan Center with an innovative idea that is now being incubated with the goal of becoming a commercialized business.

The Levan Center features small library spaces for reading and contemplation and multiple, always hot-and-ready, coffee stands. There’s also an
on-site digital cafe and professional kitchen for hosting events. There are eight types of monthly membership opportunities that provide access to a military-grade cybersecurity range, technology makerspace outfitted with 3-D printers, 3-D scanners, AR/VR headsets, robots and drones, a media production studio, and South Florida’s only investor pitch room complete with an 18-screen smart wall.

A Theme Park for Entrepreneurs

During the LLI’s private virtual tour, Wensveen called the Levan Center a “theme park for entrepreneurs and stakeholders.” How can one not THINK BIG when strolling along the 360-degree perimeter Sea to Space Highway, whose floor-to-ceiling windows reveal vistas all the way south to Miami and north through greater Fort Lauderdale?

I found specialized services for serious students, scientists, governments, and industry leaders particularly fascinating. For example, the military-grade Cybersecurity Training Range focused on training programs and exercise simulations at the entry-, mid-, and advanced professional levels supporting entrepreneurs, academia, industry, and government sectors.

The Technology Makerspace works with humanoid robots that can understand and interact with us humans. Pepper the Robot might even serve as your Levan Center tour guide. A dedicated media studio has all you need for podcasts, webcasts, radio and TV interviews, prototype, and investor pitch presentations.

The latest advances in artificial intelligence will result in the creation of the Levan Center’s artificial intelligence Smart Cities Lab, where users can virtually build an entire city—from skyscrapers to sewer systems—in one room. And the first-ever Space Entrepreneurship Program focusing on data collection is in the works.

Can’t wait to see this marvel of the future for yourself? Whose hand is raised to organize an LLI field trip? I’m sure you won’t have any trouble finding eager participants. To volunteer for this or any future outings, please see a MAC member or email lli@nova.edu, subject line “Field Trip Volunteer.” See you soon Live at The Levan!
NEWS YOU CAN USE
By Linda Maurice, M.A. / Director, Lifelong Learning Institute

Spring is around the corner, and there are many wonderful, educational happenings at the LLI. But first, before I get into all that, I must say how excited I am that the fabulous MAC (Members Advisory Committee) has taken on the task of reviving the LLI newsletter (the last issue, called the The LLI Chronicle, was published in fall 2019). The MAC does such fantastic work, and I am so appreciative of their commitment to the LLI. Now to upcoming LLI news and events.

LLI Hybrid Program: We are about to reopen the classroom and restart the hybrid program. Hopefully, this signals the beginning of the end of the pandemic and its effects on the LLI. We were very fortunate to successfully transition to a virtual program, but I am looking forward to the near future when I anticipate seeing more members coming back in-person to learn, hang out, and enjoy each other’s company. For those of you who live outside our area, don’t worry. The pandemic has forever changed our structure. We love having distance members and will continue to offer the hybrid format.

Peer-Led Programs: We have an incredible group of involved, dedicated members who spend a lot of time and effort on the following programs. If you have never participated, I highly encourage you to give them a try and get involved. Peer-led participation is a great way to stretch your mind, make new friends, and have a blast.

- Cocktail Hour
- Great Decisions (See Lou Shelley’s column “Great Decisions Through the Years.”)
- Homo Deus
- Poetics Literary Magazine
- Poetry Corner
- Poker (See Vinny Cento’s “Poker with Vinny” invitation.)
- Short Story Group

Save The Dates/Upcoming New and Returning Speakers: While some LLI students would love to hear history/politics every day, all day, that would not make for a balanced program. To keep everyone happy, we always try to offer a variety of topics and speakers. How can you discover a new “favorite” if you haven’t given it a try? A great speaker can make any subject interesting. Our new speakers won’t cost you extra—and you might even be pleasantly surprised.

Below is a preview of some wonderful new and returning lecturers. Keep checking the online calendar to stay up-to-date on who is lecturing and when.

Thursday, March 10
“Hurricanes, Floods, and Fires, Oh My: Predicting Extreme Weather and Hazards from Days-to-Decades” with Benjamin Kirtman, Ph.D.
Kirtman is a professor of atmospheric sciences, director of the Cooperative Institute for Marine & Atmospheric Studies, and deputy director of the Institute for Data Science and Computing at the University of Miami Rosenstiel School for Marine and Atmospheric Science.

Tuesday, March 22
“Food and Philosophy” with Raymond Boisvert, Ph.D.
Boisvert taught college philosophy for more than 30 years. He is an expert in American pragmatism and was instrumental in founding the field of philosophy and food.

Wednesday, March 23
“Oscar Preview 2022” with Steven Alford, Ph.D.
Alford, who is an NSU professor emeritus, is back for his annual preview and thoughts on the upcoming Oscars. He taught philosophy, film, and literature at NSU from 1982 until 2016.

Wednesday, March 30; Monday, April 25; and Tuesday, May 31
“International World Conflicts” with Dustin Berna, Ph.D.
Don’t miss Berna’s upcoming lectures. He is an expert in conflict resolution and specializes in the Middle East and the Americas.

Monday, April 4
“Everything Is Choreography: The Musical Theater of Tommy Tune” with Kevin Winkler
Winkler worked as a curator, archivist, and administrator at the New York Public Library and was a professional dancer.
**Wednesday, May 11**  
“Art History: Exploring Mark Making” with Kandy Lopez-Moreno, M.F.A.  
Lopez-Moreno is an associate professor of art and design in the Department of Communication, Media, and Arts in the NSU Halmos College of Arts and Sciences.

**Tuesday, May 17**  
“The New Supreme Court and the Evolution of Abortion Law” with Vicki Toscano, J.D., Ph.D.  
Toscano is an associate professor of philosophy and legal studies in the Department of Humanities and Politics at the NSU Halmos College of Arts and Sciences. And yes, she is Vince Toscano’s daughter!

**Tuesday, March 29 and April 19**  
“Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein” and “Sofia Coppola’s film Lost in Translation” with Suzanne Ferriss, Ph.D.  
Ferriss is an NSU professor emerita. Her areas of research and teaching include romantic and modernist literature, literary criticism, gender theory, film adaptation, and cultural studies.

**LLI Author Series with Meryl Moss Media**  
We are excited to begin a new relationship with a New York-based publisher who represents well-known authors. The spring lectures are  
- **March 2**: “This Was Toscanini/Remembering the Musical Genius of Legendary Conductor Arturo Toscanini” with Lucy Antek-Johnson  
- **March 7**: “Sins of the Fathers: New Historic Thriller” with Alan Winter  
- **April 5**: “Trigger Point—A Nicholas Ford Novel” with Tony Roth

I could write and write, as there is so much more the LLI has planned. We will continue to update you on new developments and educational offerings. Until then, enjoy your learning journey with the NSU Lifelong Learning Institute. My door is always open. Stop by to say hello and have a piece of chocolate with me.

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**Letter from the Editor**  
**By Mindy Leaf, Editor**

Welcome to the relaunch of the LLI newsletter. As editor, I feel honored and delighted to introduce you to *The LLI Report*, which is packed with the latest news—and some exciting new features. It is designed to help you get the most from your lifelong learning experience.

**News You Can Use** shares the latest scoop on new speakers and programs. It’s written by our incredibly dedicated director, Linda Maurice, who deserves our lifelong gratitude for “staying the course” through these crazy times. If you read only one item, read this.

Still, I hope to entice you with our feature story on the astounding new **NSU Levan Center of Innovation**—Broward County’s very own tech hub of tomorrow.

Learn about the MAC (Members Advisory Committee) under **Meet the MAC**, where you can get to know its members and their special projects. For this issue, we interviewed the MAC’s longest-serving member, Stuart Farber, M.D. Actively involved from day one, he shares unique insights into how the MAC came to be, its mission, and its lengthy list of accomplishments.

Similarly, under **Peer-Led Projects**, Lou Shelley provides a fascinating review of our popular **Great Decisions** program and discusses how it began, how it works, special guest speakers, and, most recently, how members came together to meet the challenge of Zoom delivery. Be sure to mark down the dates for this year’s series of thought-provoking discussions on foreign policy, all brilliantly presented by your fellow LLI members.

In the mood for something lighter? Stop by **Katz’s Korner**, where class wit and raconteur Barry Katz is sure to make you smile with his nostalgic story of being a kid during a freezing Chicago winter. To hear more Katz humor, join the virtual **Cocktail Hour with Suzanne Parker**—a fun and friendly chat group where Barry and his charming high school sweetheart/wife Fern are regulars.
If you'd rather schmooze and play (or learn to play) Texas Hold’em poker online, **Poker with Vinny Cento** is another fun and exciting peer-led option profiled here. Of course, nothing's stopping you from attending both.

**Welcome New Member!** was created as a way for new members to introduce themselves to our group. I want to thank Gael Jose for sharing her thoughts, passions, and varied life’s journey. It’s all rather inspiring, and we look forward to getting to know her even better in person soon.

For future newsletters, I’d like to add a column called **My LLI Story** that is open to everyone. If you have an interesting story that relates to the LLI in any way—funny or formal—please send me your idea.

**Letters to the Editor** is another planned addition for upcoming issues. To share your personal LLI stories, comments, and/or suggestions for articles, contact **The LLI Report** at nsullinews@gmail.com. Please note if your email is personal or may be published, you can also add a phone number and best time to call.

Until we meet again at the Fall Welcome Week issue, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for every LLI member who has joined and supported our “favorite hangout.” Go lifelong learners!

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**MEET THE MAC**

Stuart P. Farber, M.D., reveals everything you ever wanted to know about the LLI’s Members Advisory Committee (aka “the MAC”) and didn’t think to ask.

**First, a bit of history—the how and the why.**

The MAC was born in the summer of 2010 out of existential anxiety about the LLI’s future when its original director resigned. Don Rosenblum, Ph.D., dean of what was formerly known as NSU’s Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences, which oversaw the LLI at the time, was invited to address these concerns. He visited on July 29 to publicly affirm his commitment to our learning center, while supporting the formation of a Members Advisory Committee that would

- serve as a direct conduit between membership and decision makers at the university
- assure that members would be privy to accurate information
- ensure that the dean would have direct access to member concerns

Seven MAC members were elected on August 17 and November 2 when snowbirds returned. They were Jill Cohen, Edith Bergman, Joy Gallimore, Moe Weiner, Lee Sacks, Alan Neuman, and me. Since that time, many members have served and retired. The current MAC members are Stuart Farber, M.D. (chairman); Frank Stewart (secretary); Ricki Franklin; Suzanne Parker; Barry Shapiro; Paul Krauth; and Mindy Leaf.

At the first MAC meeting on August 30, 2010, a set of bylaws was drafted, voted upon, and approved by the general membership. MAC members continue to be guided by these bylaws.

- to represent the interests of the membership to the university decision makers
- to represent the interests of the membership to the LLI director’s office
- to receive unfiltered information from the university and the director’s office to report back to the membership
- to create initiatives to enhance the already excellent LLI experience

**What was your role in the beginning?**

I was actively involved in the creation of the MAC 12 years ago and elected by the other committee members as its first chairman. We worked together to define its function and write the bylaws. We
worked hard and were proud that during that first year we achieved all our objectives. These included many items members may now take for granted, such as integrating the LLI into the university body with an NSU-issued student ID and more class-auditing options. We promoted a fitness program, created the LLI newsletter, initiated field trip and hospitality committees, established the E-Valuation system of rating our lecturers, and, with Linda Maurice, set up and defined the LLI Tribute Fund.

Most importantly, during that first year, we established relationships and lines of communication with the university decision makers, President Hanbury, and the dean of our college — relationships that have grown and deepened over the years. To this day, we remain grateful that Dr. Hanbury remains our staunchest advocate. We also developed a strong working relationship with our director Linda Maurice and her office and developed relationships with the university marketing arm and University Advancement. On the local level, we upgraded our Davie classroom with improved climate controls, new chairs, and successfully lobbied for LLI-reserved parking spaces. Quite a productive first year!

The MAC then facilitated a smooth transition when the Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine was charged with overseeing our program. With continued growth came the need for more funding. The LLI Strategic Plan involved the Office of Institutional Advancement, and a formal marketing plan went through the Office of University Relations. The latter led to the university allocating funds specifically earmarked for the LLI.

During the ensuing decade, the MAC continued representing the LLI members' interests in many ways and fostering many initiatives for their benefit, the benefit of the LLI, the university community, and the community at large. Most recently, the MAC responded to the pandemic by facilitating the conversion to Zoom and creating several Zoom symposia that attracted national audiences.

What makes you most proud? Does anything surprise you?
I am proud of all of the MAC’s accomplishments, which are not mine, but are the accomplishments of the group. I suppose I am most proud of helping create this group and enabling its perpetuation, which has allowed it to do so many marvelous things for the LLI and its membership. As for surprises, nothing surprised me. Every obstacle was treated as a foreseen possibility—viewed as a challenge to overcome.

What’s your vision for the future of the MAC and the LLI?
The NSU LLI is truly a unique community resource, a jewel. It can provide so much for so many. My hope is that it continues to thrive and to grow, extending its benefits to many more people, and that the MAC can continue to contribute to that goal.

Can we get personal? How do you spend your time away from the LLI?
I am retired from clinical surgery but still teach at the medical school. I absolutely loved surgery. During my active practice, I helped create the vascular surgical residency program at Memorial Regional Hospital that was run in conjunction with Jackson Memorial Hospital. I became its first director and taught vascular surgery to senior surgical residents. Since I so enjoyed teaching residents at this advanced stage, teaching medical students at the beginning of their journey was something I hoped to do in retirement. I now teach Physical Diagnosis for half a day each week, along with Didactic Vascular Surgery, technical procedures, and clinical simulations at varying times throughout the year.

I also play tournament backgammon, ride a bicycle, and play grandpa. Pre-pandemic, I had season tickets for baseball, football, theater, and the symphony.

Contact the MAC at lli@nova.edu, subject line “MAC.”

Why the LLI?
The reason I’ve continued to serve as MAC chair for so many years is both selfish and altruistic. I enjoy being involved, leading, and giving back in service to an organization that has given me so much and that I believe serves an incredibly important function in our community.
How to Make Great Decisions

Attending the LLI’s Great Decisions lecture/discussion series is a great start.

The LLI Report Challenge: If you can identify the slice of space in the above photo, you will be crowned LLI Maven of the Month and granted all bragging rights for the duration.

The development of man-made satellites has had a profound influence—both practical and theoretical—on our understanding of our place in the cosmos. However, these scientific accomplishments present a global challenge for peaceful coexistence among an ever-growing number of space participants—from Russia and the United States to India, China, and even private commercial ventures like SpaceX.

—Frank Canosa, professor of physics, presenting on “Outer Space” on March 29

Would you believe the Foreign Policy Association (FPA) is 100 years old? Since its inception, its mission has been straightforward: to educate and foster lively discussions on timely foreign policy matters among the American public. And then to actually solicit our opinions regarding these policies. How cool is that?

This year, the FPA-sponsored, eight-session Great Decisions course at the LLI began with Dan Smith’s presentation on the world’s “Changing Demographics” on February 21. Frank Canosa, quoted above, will speak about satellites and “Outer Space” on March 29, followed by “Climate Change” with Frank Stewart on April 18, “Russia” by Susan Mattes on May 2, and “Myanmar and ASEAN” by JoHannah Eklund on May 23.

The series runs through the end of our summer semester, so be sure to check the LLI calendar and weekly announcements for future topics and dates. Lou Shelley, who has spearheaded the group for many years, will be lecturing on “Drug Policy in Latin America” sometime in July or September, and a special ninth session reviews “Biden’s Agenda.”

Naturally, each LLI member/presenter brings his or her own flavorings to the table, but they are uniformly smart, entertaining, and extremely well-researched. While many harbor backgrounds that make them uniquely qualified to tackle their subjects, it isn’t necessary. Our members are lifelong learners who are perfectly capable of learning new things all the time. A presenter’s excitement in sharing his or her topic is contagious, and pushes us to learn even more.

—Mindy Leaf

Great Decisions Through the Years

By Louis Shelley

This section offers observations and insights by Great Decisions facilitator par excellence Lou Shelley, who describes the discussion series as “evolving and always improving in a changing world”—just like the LLI’s Great Decisions team.

“An open dialogue on our collective future in an interdependent world.”

Some 10 years ago, Miki Boyer suggested incorporating Great Decisions into the LLI’s curriculum. Morris Weiner, aka “Big Moe” (sadly deceased), ran with the idea, organizing a roundtable, peer-led format. When I joined in 2015, participants had name-card table tents, and there was a pass-along microphone. Dennis Simunek, our timekeeper, allowed three minutes per member.

Moe began with a brief summary of the chapter in the Foreign Policy Association (FPA) briefing book, which we all read. We viewed the FPA provocative video on the topic and offered our opinions and/or impressions from end-of-chapter questions. Our discourse often evolved into a general consensus.

We then individually filled out the end-of-chapter questionnaires and sent them off to the FPA. These so-called “ballots” collected from our group and others nationwide were tabulated into the National Opinion Poll and submitted to the State Department, the White House, members of Congress, and others as a reflection of the national pulse on U.S. foreign policy matters.

As time passed, Great Decisions classes became very popular, with crowds of onlookers sitting on the sidelines. Occasionally, some joined in the discussion.
This led to the need to expand the roundtable format into a classroom setting.

Aware of my professional background as a convention and meeting planner, Big Moe asked me to take over the organization of the Great Decision series. I decided to invite NSU professors to serve as “faculty advisers” for some of the more complicated subjects. Charles Zelden, Ph.D., provided great perspective when I interviewed him live concerning our foreign policy toward India.

Finding that many in the classroom “audience” had not read the briefing book, I initiated a chapter review requirement for facilitators, while I provided news updates emphasizing the theme of U.S. Foreign Policy and the Future of Freedom. There were always references citing how “truths” or “untruths” can have consequences, and when it came to statesmanship, the globally interconnected world is always watching.

During the past two years, as the LLI’s programming transitioned to Zoom due to COVID-19, new learning opportunities arose. For example, I invited David P. Kilroy, Ph.D., to join us on what I believe was the university’s first-ever international Zoom class. Kilroy zoomed in from Dublin, Ireland, to discuss Brexit and the European Union just as Britain was making the transition and troubles were brewing in Ireland and Scotland. Online Great Decision sessions have included popular NSU lecturer/advisers, such as professors Stephen Levitt, Tim Dixon, and Vincent Toscano, just to name a few.

Through the years, many facilitators were experts in particular subjects. The Hon. Kenneth Hurewitz, a retired federal immigration judge, led us on matters of immigration during the height of the exodus from Syria. John Vetter shared his expertise on economics, while Frank Stewart, with his successful, lengthy career in the federal government, helped us understand the complexities of working through the system to develop foreign policy.

The list of peer-led participants in our Great Decisions series is both long and meaningful. Our ever-expanding team member group enjoys the interaction and personal development that comes from preparing and participating in the programs. Most of our facilitators just work through the material and are ultimately rewarded by a great feeling of learning enrichment in subjects that might never have been on their radar.

The pandemic-necessitated Zoom format expanded our reach to where we can now connect with participants and members who would have been otherwise unavailable. For instance, last year, we enjoyed the participation of Michael Reilly, who tuned in from Florida’s West Coast to present a roundup session on globalization. I happened to provide the update on that topic, and through that experience, learned so much more about the connections we have with our past, present, and future. Great Decisions certainly provides a great pathway for lifelong learning discoveries.

At the May 2016 class on “International Migration,” Stephen Levitt (seated facing the audience) served as faculty adviser. Joy Rodenberg (standing up front) roved with the microphone, while Lou Shelley (standing in the audience) acted as facilitator. Great Decisions’ founder Big Moe (in white cap) is sitting in the first row.

Going virtual also inspired the creation of a Great Decisions Members Team. Vinny Cento offered his expertise regarding Zoom and other technical aspects; he now runs all audiovisual content and, along with the team members, assists facilitators with PowerPoint suggestions.

JoHannah Eklund, whose career in education at international schools spans both stateside and abroad, serves as our educational adviser. Joy Rodenberg, whose talent in keeping the conversation going is widely acknowledged, works with Frank Stewart to specifically tailor chapter questions to LLI participants. Others, like John Vetter, Dan Smith, Miki Boyer, Rudy Ameerally, Frank Canosa, and many more, continue to provide guidance on improving our format.
Poker with Vinny
By Vinny Cento

It's poker time! Every Thursday evening at 7:30 p.m., members of the LLI are invited to play Texas Hold'em poker via Zoom and the Poker Now Club. It is free to play. We play for poker chips, which have no value and are simply used to keep score. No real money is involved.

The Poker Now Club website provides all the tools we need to play Texas Hold’em poker. Poker Now deals the cards, keeps track of the score, and determines the winner of each game.

In addition to card-playing excitement, members enjoy a fun evening of conversation about everything from current events to how we can improve our game. We currently have three open seats at the poker table. If you are interested in joining us, or would like more information about our friendly poker get-togethers, please contact Vinny at vcento93@gmail.com.

Can you beat Nelly, Vinny, Myron, Bob, and Jim?

KATZ’S KORNER

Knickers
By Barry Katz

The year was 1942. I was seven years old. It was a cold, snowy, winter day, and I was wearing corduroy knickers.

Every step I took sounded like someone tearing paper. That's what it sounded like when you played in the snow in Chicago in sub-zero weather.

All the spaces in the ribbed corduroy of my knickers filled with snow and froze. After an hour, it became impossible to walk. So I marched home like a Nazi soldier, where Mom began taking me apart—hat, gloves, earmuffs, muffler, galoshes—and, finally, knickers. I remember how they stood there, frozen at attention.

After a few minutes, apparently proud of this feat, the knickers took a very slow bow.
Hello fellow NSU LLI members. I’m glad to join you. Years ago, I heard about Osher’s program, so when I retired, I checked to see if NSU had something similar. I discovered I like the format of NSU’s program even better. The LLI has such interesting talks on diverse and timely topics. And I’m auditing French to boot. What a blast!

My story starts in the lovely small town of Ipswich, Massachusetts. I was the fourth generation to live there and had lots of family around. When my dad spoke of moving to Florida, I cried. Many years later, finally tired of shoveling snow, I followed my parents and moved to Florida as well.

Going on 37 sunny years, Florida is home. I have two adult sons and two grandsons, with the oldest back in Boston at Northeastern University.

Early on, I took several college majors and minors without earning a degree and worked in mutual funds and accounting. I then got a B.A. in Math/Computer Science and Spanish and graduated magna cum laude. I also earned an M.S. in Management Info Systems, graduating cum laude, and went full steam ahead into information systems, starting as a programmer/analyst and working my way up to a database professional specializing in Oracle and Unix. It was challenging, fascinating, and I loved it.

I worked for excellent medical, financial, and communications companies and had many great colleagues over the years. The last two companies I joined were global and fulfilled my dream of working in international business. I was also lucky enough to be part of a team that earned two patents for a handheld computer we designed and implemented.

I keep busy with projects, yoga, friends, and running for the board of my condo association, which is work. I love to travel and dream of “eating my way around the world” in one trip. People, cultures, food, geography, and languages all fascinate me. I walked the Camino de Santiago. I’m not much of a sports fan. Music, dancing, and the arts are my go-to activities. I speak Spanish and am reviving my faded French. I’m sick of COVID-19 and eager to hit the road again.

Sorry for all the “I’s” in the story, but wait—it’s all about me. Now I’d love to hear about you. I’m looking forward to meeting all my fellow students and enjoying this journey with you.

—Gael Jose

World traveler and new LLI member Gael Jose at the Perito Moreno Glacier in Argentine Patagonia.
Please remember to check the up-to-date schedule of LLI classes at nova.edu/llicalendar.

CONTACT INFORMATION
Call: (954) 262-8471
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Web: nova.edu/lifelonglearning

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3100 SW 9th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33315

THE LLI MISSION
Nova Southeastern University’s Lifelong Learning Institute (LLI) provides a vibrant educational environment for mature adults in South Florida. Programs promote intellectual stimulation, physical well-being, and social growth that enrich the lives of its members and the community.