Here, There, and Everywhere, while famously known as the title of a Beatles song, is also a popular trend in the world of retirement pursuits. In the past, mahjongg, bridge, golf, tennis, and lectures on health and self-help issues kept us busy. Today, many retirees talk about going back to school. Intellectual pursuits are the buzz.

In 1977, programs like the Lifelong Learning Institute (LLI) began at Nova Southeastern University (NSU). Other universities around the country and the world have similar organizations. A new phenomenon, however, is bringing our classroom to folks who—for one reason or another—are unable to reach a main university campus.

For more than 10 years, the LLI has established relationships with retirement communities in the tri-county area, bringing a new dimension to more traditionally based lifestyle choices often offered in some residential communities. Recently, the LLI began partnering with municipalities. In July 2015, the City of Coconut Creek became the first South Florida city to provide university-affiliated, humanities-based lifelong learning classes for all of its residents, regardless of age.

The trend of off-campus expansion is planned to reach the university’s regional campuses. In collaboration with NSU’s Fischler College of Education, and with support from the LLI’s parent, the College of Osteopathic Medicine, an offshoot LLI program will begin this fall in North Miami Beach. On October 12, the opening event will feature an in-depth lecture on “Diverse Evaluations and Interpretations of Classical Music,” taught by world-renowned musicologist Judith Etzion, Ph.D. The lecture—an exploration of varied approaches to diverse musical styles over different periods of time—is free and open to the community.

Public interest is a key factor in mature adults’ pursuit of educational options in their leisure time. Still, kudos belong to creative professionals in the geriatric field who address the demand and think outside the proverbial box. Innovators know adaptability to changing times is a reality, as well as a necessity. In the world of lifelong learning, meeting the challenge means evolving to satisfy the increasing academic demands of an aging boomer population.
As we begin the 2015-16 academic year, I realize that a year from now we will be looking toward the 40th anniversary of the LLI. As a student of the lifelong learning phenomenon, I am amazed at how we have grown.

After eight years at Nova Southeastern University, I see how much our members and their interests have changed. The old-fashioned, self-help lectures are no longer requested—or even tolerated—in our curriculum. Our membership is younger, more diverse, tech-savvy, and more involved.

Keeping up with the times, the LLI staff members try to introduce new topics and approaches to lifelong learning, so be on the lookout for additional participatory lectures where lecturers may ask class members to read materials before class.

As always, we ask everyone to try new speakers and topics. You never know who or what might become your new favorite. Not involved yet with the Membership Advisory Committee (MAC)? Try it out. The members do great work, and the LLI couldn’t function without their help and support.

Here’s to a great, inspiring, and challenging year.

FROM THE DIRECTOR
Linda E. Maurice, M.A.

We’re witnessing another fall and another start of a new academic year at the LLI. As summer fades and primetime begins, the seasoned veterans are eager to partake in what is to come. The green rookies are not quite sure why they are excited, but history indicates they will experience more than they expect.

The A-Listers, the dialogue, the community, the lunches, the friends, the field trips, the university, Welcome Week, everything that comprises this undefinable thing we all share—and feel is our own shared secret—is set to begin again. The growth and development of our program is a source of pride for all of us. It makes me glad to realize I am no closer now than I ever was to graduation—the end of the enriching experience.

Another fall. Another start. Can’t wait.

MEMBERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN COLUMN
Stuart Farber, M.D.

NORTH MIAMI BEACH EVENTS

On Monday, October 12, from 10:00 a.m.–noon, an open-house event will be held that is free to the community entitled “Diverse Evaluations and Interpretations of Classical Music” with Judith Etzion, Ph.D.

Following the open house, six classes will be offered at a cost of $70 for the series on October 19, 26, November 2, 9, 16, and 23.

Starting in January 2016, a series of six classes will be offered at the North Miami Beach location.

THE SERIES WILL INCLUDE
The Gold Coast Jazz Society – “The 2015-16 Season”
Judith Etzion – “Studies in Classical Music”
Al Hazen and Branch Walton – “Topics in Homeland Security and Terrorism”
Mark Newman – “Reel History vs. Real History”
Stephen Singer – “Famous Legal Trials”
Vincent Toscano – “Remembering Our Lives”

For more information about the October program or future series (January–March 2016), please contact the LLI office at lli@nova.edu.
The City of Coconut Creek jumped on the idea of a Lifelong Learning Institute series when it was first approached by Nova Southeastern University. Commissioner Sandra Welch, who dubbed our classes the “Creek Culture Series,” said “Coconut Creek is committed to providing options of great experiences for our residents. We offer a plethora of recreational activities and movies and concerts in the park, but this concept was different. The fact that top-notch NSU professors were serving as feature speakers sealed the deal.”

The Culture Series kicked off in July with two amazing speakers, one of which had audience members performing Tai Chi in their seats. On August 2, many participants discussed popular art of the 1960s. The yearlong learning experience has proven to be a hit within our community and will continue to offer myriad fascinating topics from RockEconomics to poetry. The average class size is 85 people. Residents throughout our different neighborhoods have taken advantage of the opportunity, and have offered only positive feedback. We look forward to the remainder of the classes.

HELPING KIDS GROW UP SAFE, HEALTHY, AND DRUG FREE:
What You May Not Know About Your Grandkids
By Rona Levitt R.N., FNS, CPHA

Picture your grandchildren’s innocent, smiling faces in a photograph and hear these words: They get their hair from their mom; their eyes from their dad; their drugs from their grandma or grandpa’s medicine cabinet.

It’s hard to imagine that our beloved children and grandchildren would do such a thing, but it happens all the time. An estimated 70 percent of people aged 12 years and older who abuse prescription drugs get them from family or friends.*

While most of us view prescribed medications as a way to improve one’s health, many kids believe they are a safe way to get high. Young people may believe prescription drugs are safer choices because they see their parents or grandparents taking them. Such drugs don’t have the same stigma as street drugs in their opinions. For the first time in our nation’s history, deaths due to drug overdose (mostly prescription drugs) have surpassed deaths due to automobile accidents. Visits to emergency rooms for prescription drug overdose have increased 81 percent.

It’s difficult as parents and grandparents to wrap your mind around these facts. But be aware, it happens every day. As an Informed Families board member, I hear horror stories from Drug Enforcement Administration agents and police officers who tell what goes on in the real world. Unfortunately, drug addiction is an issue for my family, so I know how important it is for each of us to take an active role in the fight against this plague.

The war on drugs begins at home. Secure and take regular inventory of your medicines to keep them out of the hands of children. It’s never too late or too early to begin discussing this important issue.

Keep yourself in the know by visiting the Informed Families website at www.informedfamilies.org.

EXERCISE YOUR MIND AND BODY AT THE LLI

Enjoy LLI exercise classes each day after regular lectures have concluded.
Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:15-3:15 p.m. – Tai Chi with Carlos Londono (suggested donation: $5 per class)
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:15-3:15 p.m. – LLI Fitness Class (incorporates aerobics and weights tailored for individual abilities/needs) with Barbara Norgren – Free and sponsored by A Family Member HomeCare

*SAMSHA 2006 National Survey on Drug Use
WHAT IS THE LLI TRIBUTE FUND?

Although we charge a membership fee, anyone who truly wants to be a part of our wonderful LLI is never turned away and is offered a “scholarship.” Covering the cost, however, is a challenge. While the LLI dreams of a guardian angel to endow us and ensure our financial security, we are thrilled to accept any donation to our Tribute Fund. Donations can be directed toward the following categories:

**General Fund**
utilized for extra costs at the LLI, such as equipment and performers for parties
https://nova.edu/giving/LLIGeneralFund

**Speakers Fund**
utilized for non-NSU faculty speakers who receive an honorarium
http://nova.edu/giving/LLISpeakersFund

**Scholarship Fund**
invaluable funds that help your fellow LLI members
http://nova.edu/giving/LLIScholarshipFund

Donations can be made online at the above links or via a blue booklet available at the LLI. If anyone is interested in becoming a “guardian angel,” please see Linda or email her at lmaurice@nova.edu.