

INSTITUTE FOR CONTINUED LEARNING AT WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY

ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

Introduction

The Institute for Continued Learning at Willamette University is a self-directed academic program that serves people 50 years of age and older who have an interest in pursuing continued learning in an academic environment. ICL will begin its 30th year of classes and the 30th year of its relationship with Willamette University in the fall of 2022.

On behalf of ICL I would like to thank the University for its support and help during the past 29 years. Our connection with Willamette is an integral part of the culture of ICL. For help in this second year of the pandemic, I would like to thank Carol Long, Jaime Lawrence, Ross Stout, Stacey Morgan, Laura Taylor and all others who made our year a success. ICL also greatly appreciates the technical support made available by Willamette, in particular, webpage hosting, email services, and Zoom license. And for help with food and drink when we were finally able to return to in-person classes, ICL thanks Tricia Matte from Bon Appetite catering services.

Curriculum

Most classes in the 2021-2022 academic year were held on Zoom but on March 29, 2022, we were able to return to Kaneko for in-person classes for the first time since the Covid pandemic began in the spring of 2020.

The ICL curriculum is developed by members of the Curriculum Committee, who put many hours of work into finding presenters on varied and interesting topics. The goals of the committee are not only to have a mix of presenters from Willamette University, ICL members, and outside speakers, but also a mix of academic subjects.

During the fall semester of 2021, ICL met on Tuesday mornings for 2 hours, on Zoom. We had two presenters from Willamette University, 6 from outside and 11 from among ICL members. We had classes on specific topics drawn from subject areas including music, dance, economics, decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States, climate change, emergency preparedness, Black history and racism, and the natural world.

In the spring of 2022, we met on Tuesdays and Thursdays for two hours in the morning. We started on Zoom and after spring break, moved back to Kaneko Auditorium. We had eight presenters from Willamette University, 10 from outside and 20 from among ICL members. Specific topics came from the following subject areas: American political institutions, visual and theater arts, science, history, music, dance, language endangerment, and Chinese folk and fairy tales.

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Financial

ICL did not collect dues for the 2021-2022 academic year, once again paying most speaker expenses from funds given for the benefit of ICL by Dr. Peter Rasmussen. We ended the fiscal year with healthy balances in all funds. (Details available on the website.) These balances will enable us to increase the amount we pay speakers next year.

At the end of the spring semester, we began collecting dues for the 2022-2023 academic year and we expect to return to the prior practice of paying all speaker remuneration from the Operating Account.

Technical and Information Services

The Technical Services (TS) and Information Services (IS) Directors continued training and supporting members in using the Zoom platform and continued providing both information and services.

To provide continued connection throughout Covid, TS/IS provided weekly virtual Happy Hours for members. Additionally, TS/IS offered a virtual Wine Group once each month, until Wine Group members felt comfortable meeting in-person.

The TS/IS Directors continued the weekly newsletter, the ICL Digest – Senioritis. Just before the last day of classes in the spring of 2022, the 107th edition of the newsletter was emailed to members. Publication continues during the summer break.

The TS/IS Directors were available for additional technical support via Zoom and in person to troubleshoot problems and to teach software programs like Google Docs, PowerPoint and Keynote.

When we returned to Kaneko in March 2022, TS/IS ensured that equipment in the auditorium was ready for presentations and that presenters were ready and able to use the equipment.

Membership Services

In the 2021-2022 academic year, 26 new members were admitted to ICL. In order to return to Kaneko in March, we were required to be vaccinated and boosted. The Membership Co-Directors solicited and received copies of vaccination cards from all members who wanted to return to in-person classes and were responsible for checking for marked identification badges for everyone who attended any in-person session.

Social Services

During the 2021-2022 academic year the Social Services Co-Directors presented 3 coffee and conversation sessions on Zoom and arranged coffee and treats twice when we got back to Kaneko. Get well or condolence cards were sent to 14 members or

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families of deceased members. Two contributions were made on behalf of ICL in memory of deceased members.

The Social Services Co-Directors, along with the Technical and Information Services Directors, were instrumental in creating and maintaining a sense of community in isolating times.

Conclusion

The Covid situation continued to present challenges for ICL in the 2021-2022 academic year. The number of cases reported in our area fluctuated, making it difficult to determine when it would be relatively safe to return to in-person classes. Thanks to hard work by members of the ICL Board and committees, we had stimulating classes and conversations both on Zoom and, when we returned to Willamette, in-person. Members remained flexible and committed to our continued learning endeavor. I thank all of them.

Joan Robinson, Executive Director
Institute for Continued Learning at Willamette University