

# Lifelong Learning Fall 2019 Newsletter

## President's Message

Working with Baylor Lifelong Learners has become one of my most important retirement activities. When Tom and Jan Purdy invited me and my husband, Louis, to join shortly after we met them in 2015, we were immediately interested in the opportunities to attend classes. That was our entry into a wonderfully exciting group. We were impressed by the quality of the classes and the deep conversations that occurred there. We also attended a couple of coffees where we spent time getting to know other members. When Janis Runyon invited me to serve as chair of the Special Events Committee, and Tom Purdy invited my husband to serve on the Publicity Committee, we entered a new level of involvement. That's when we learned that the best way to truly engage with this organization is to become involved in its work.

There are so many levels of involvement. In addition to taking classes or attending events, you can work with committees, convene a class, bring refreshments to a coffee, and help share information about LLL events with your friends. You can become fully immersed in something or just dip your toe into a piece of our work. One of our Core Values is to keep membership affordable so that a diverse group of people can participate.

This year I urge you to look around at what is happening and see if there is something that intrigues you. Contact an officer, a member of the board, or the Baylor LLL office and let us know what piques your interest. We welcome your participation.

Elaine White, LLL President 2019 - 2020

**Calling all amateur photographers!**  
Contact Mary Gerecke at  
[marywaco@yahoo.com](mailto:marywaco@yahoo.com)

## Special Events Fall 2019

- Fall Convocation
  - Friday, Aug. 16, 10 am
  - At the Mayborn Museum
  - Dr. T. Michael Parrish
  - Dorris Miller, Pearl Harbor and the Civil Rights Movement
- Coffee and Program
  - Friday, Sept. 13, 10 am
  - At the Mayborn Museum
  - David Lintz
  - History of Mammoth Site
- Bus Trip to Round Top
  - Friday, Oct. 25
  - Festival Hill & Blue Bell Creamery
  - Full agenda and price TBA
- Christmas Luncheon
  - Thursday, Dec. 5, 11:30 am
  - Cashion Academic Center
  - Full Agenda and Price TBA

### For more information:

[www.baylor.edu/lifelonglearning](http://www.baylor.edu/lifelonglearning)



**Baylor University**  
CONTINUING EDUCATION

# Lifelong Learning Salutes Retiring Historian Billie DeFrees

By Diane Hamilton

Having served as Lifelong Learning historian through seven LLL presidents, Billie DeFrees has rightfully earned her place among esteemed historians such as Doris Kearns Goodwin and Ken Burns. From the fall of 2013 through the spring of 2019, Billie created ten bulging notebooks with over one thousand pages of photos, news clippings, brochures, handouts, and pertinent comics, capturing the evolution of LLL.

“The things I am most proud of in these books are the wonderful smiles that I captured with my camera. I see people who are living life and loving Lifelong Learning.”

- Billie Faye DeFrees

Billie was motivated to assume the historian position by her love of taking pictures and meeting people. Without a specific blueprint to follow, she devised her idea of what a LLL historian should do: keep an annual scrapbook chronicling LLL’s activities, which could be displayed at coffees and luncheons for membership to enjoy.

Billie has been devoted to her commitment, only missing two LLL sessions, one because she was locked out! At each session Billie snapped photos capturing poignant and entertaining moments, and interviewed presenters and participants, in order to garner quips for her captions.

She readily acknowledged that the most time consuming tasks were selecting which photos to include from the hundreds that she took and then correctly identifying each person. She would often spend six hours in an afternoon only to complete five scrapbook pages.

Billie’s investment in this treasure trove of LLL memorabilia went far beyond diligence and time. Up until last year when LLL provided memory cards, Billie absorbed all expenses with no reimbursement for equipment, film, photo development, notebooks, or sheet protectors.



“This was all me,” she humbly commented. Grinning slyly, “My only technology was my ball point pen.”

Billie's fondest memories of monitoring LLL's comprehensive history are plentiful. She is proud of how membership and participation have grown and how classes have become more interesting. "It was wonderful to have one place to meet," she said, "but I've learned a lot about my community by having classes at different places." Her most memorable contacts were with presenters such as Lynn Tatum, Jerry Powell, David Smith, and Susan Bolden; however, she was quick to add, "All presenters were so gracious to engage in conversations with me!" Billie also made sure that she enrolled in at least one class each semester. She chuckled as she recalled the Cold War Class that ended with a cake depicting Checkpoint Charlie and the Berlin Wall, and she nostalgically recalled the trumpet instructor who commented that "He could teach things that he could not do himself. I never forgot that."



Even though Billie will be putting her camera aside for LLL now, she plans to continue enrolling in LLL classes when she is not busy volunteering at the Gospel Cafe, where she weekly helps serve lunch to as many as two hundred people. A "42" aficionado, Billie plays dominoes with four groups, including the Happy Shufflers and is active in Newcomers and Neighbors. In addition, she has an active family life with her husband, three children, and eight grandchildren.

Surveying the stacks of her LLL notebooks, she sighed and remarked, "This is my contribution to Lifelong Learning and gladly done...but this is primitive... It's time for technology to take over." Billie, LLL acknowledges that there is no technology that can replace your sense of humor and generous spirit, which are hallmarks of your LLL legacy. Thank you for your invaluable contributions to our history.



Lifelong Learning Executive Board Meeting: August 23, 2013

# New Kid on the Block

By Diane Hamilton

LLL welcomes Dr. Dennis Myers to the LLL 2019 fall faculty. A professor in the Baylor Garland School of Social Work, Dr. Myers will teach *The Art and Science of Finishing Well: Navigating the Border Crossings of the 55+ Years*. A licensed clinical social worker, Dr. Myers frequently publishes in professional and academic journals, such as *Family Social Work*, *Journal of Applied Gerontology*, and *Marriage and Family Review*. He also shares his expertise on aging with the Waco community by serving on the Ascension-Providence Park Board, the Stilwell Retirement Center Board, and the North Central Texas Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association Board. His intriguing LLL course will provide tips on parenting adult children and grandchildren, as well as reinventing ourselves in life's golden years. For more details on the class, be sure to check out the fall course brochure and register at [baylor.edu/lifelonglearning](http://baylor.edu/lifelonglearning).

## LLL Committees Already at Work



The 2019 Lifelong Learning History Committee met, under the leadership of Mary Gerecke and Bob Kinney, to reformulate its purpose and work. Current history will be documented through newsletters and digital presentations. A new focus will be to gather and analyze data in order to better serve the LLL community.

The publicity committee is hard at work already under the leadership of Terry Wright. They've got lots of new ideas for getting the word out about Lifelong Learning. Be watching for ways to help their efforts.



# Lifelong Learning – Evaluation Survey

Reflecting on Spring 2019 Courses and Events

**Q: What kind(s) of courses would you be most likely to register for in the future?**

## Response Rate

Email Link Sent to	288
Recorded Responses	92
Response Rate	32%

(In general, a 30% response rate seems to be considered good.)

Field	Likely	Votes
History	68.48%	63
Current Events	57.61%	53
Science Nature	48.91%	45
Art/Music	41.30%	38
Religion	41.30%	38
Literature	36.96%	34
Business Law	18.48%	17

**Q: What course topic or instructor would you suggest for our Curriculum Committee to consider when planning future courses?**

Topic	Times Mentioned
History	8
Music/Theatre	6
Religion	6
Literature	4

Instructor	Times Mentioned
Brad Livingstone	8
Lynn Tatum	5
David Smith	2
Gerald Powell	2
Elaine White	2
Julie Sweet	1

(The tables summarize common comments made on this open-ended question.)

## Volunteers

40 different people marked “willing to volunteer”. This is 44% of people who filled out the survey! 8 people would like to volunteer to teach or to speak at the future LLL courses and events!

# Lifelong Letter Fall 2019 Newsletter

---

---



Baylor University

CONTINUING EDUCATION

One Bear Place #97071  
Waco, TX 76798-7071