

Lifelong Learning at the Mayborn Museum Summer 2023 Newsletter

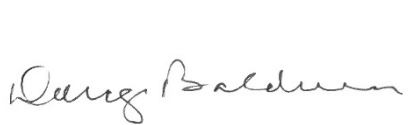


End of the year

We have finished another year
And it was outstanding without a tear.
The volunteers, as always, carried the day,
And did not turn our learners away.
We made new records,
We found new ways,
And into the future we innovate,
For learning is never too late.

We have enjoyed an outstanding year. My goal this year was to “not screw things up.” I submit to you that I have succeeded. In fact, as a result of terrific work by all our volunteers, we have set records – 471 members, 698 course participants, great trips to an Allen, TX dinosaur factory and Sheels sports store in the Fall and to a train and music adventures in Waxahachie this Spring.

We celebrated twenty-five years of Lifelong Learning, and Judy Staples organized all our history materials for deposit into the Texas Collection. I truly appreciate the opportunity to serve as your president this year and look forward to greater years for Baylor Lifelong learning in the future.



Doug Baldwin

AS SPRING TURNS TO SUMMER . . .

Eighty-eight Lifelong Learning (LLL) members enjoyed a lovely spring luncheon Friday, May 5th, as well as the panoramic view of the Baylor campus and cityscape from the Fifth Floor of the Cashion Academic Center. The dining tables were filled with spring flowers, and the pecan chicken and cheesecake briskly disappeared . . . along with the 2022-23 academic year.

LLL President Doug Baldwin, serving as Master of Ceremonies, introduced Elaine White who gave the invocation. Bob Anne Senter introduced Cathy Hawes who shared stories and songs from English actress, singer and author Dame Julie Andrews, DBE

Hawes sang some of Andrews' best-known hits, frequently changing hats as she took on new characters. Woven into the presentation were tidbits of information about Andrews, one of the last surviving leading actresses from the Golden Age of Hollywood, both screen and stage.

A brief general membership meeting accommodated the election of new officers and at-large members of the LLL team and approval of a few minor changes to the organization's Bylaws. Vice President Nancy Moore closed the luncheon by encouraging members to watch for the July arrival of the Fall 2023 brochure and an enticing array of courses and events planned for the upcoming LL semester.

NOTE: The 2023 Christmas luncheon is scheduled for December 8th at the Cashion Academic Center. Information for the program and tickets will be available in the fall on the Mayborn/LLL website.



LLL members enjoy the lecture about "The God Particle" at January's coffee.



Doug Baldwin and Barbara Wilson enjoy coffee with Dr. Jay Dittman.



Members visit with Dr. Dittman after his lecture.



LeAnne Porter at the March Coffee.



Debbie Adams and Mary Gerecke (left side of table) visit with guests attending the March Coffee.



Nancy Moore, Dr. Sheryl Victorian (Waco Chief of Police) and Jane Winston before Dr. Victorian speaks at March's coffee.



Spring Luncheon at the Cashion



Bob Anne Senter introducing luncheon guest



Cathy Hawes as Mary Poppins entertaining members at the Spring Luncheon

Baylor Lifelong Learning Honors DeFrees, Senter, Lindsey; Texas Collection's Pirtle, 2024 President Moore Speak

By Judy Staples

Twenty-five years of Lifelong Learning (LLL) program history were celebrated on April 25 at the Mayborn Museum. Doug Baldwin, President, acknowledged current and past leaders and volunteers of the organization with certificates of appreciation presented to **Billie DeFrees**, **Bob Anne Senter** and **Annette Lindsey**. for their significant contributions to the documented history of the organization.

"It was my pleasure to be such a big part of keeping our group's history," said DeFrees. Notably, she served as LLL history chair for seven years, often attending the various courses and events to take photos and create the scrapbook pages.

Senter served as the LLL program administrator from 2008-2016, continuing as leader of Bob Anne's Book Club for several semesters since, as well as being an active LLL member. Lindsey was the original program administrator of "Baylor Institute for Learning in Retirement" in its first seven years, continuing her contacts with LLL to the present.

Her set of records kept from the earliest meetings and events in 1998 helped to preserve the information for capturing a written history for the 25th anniversary. Copies of the LLL History Brochure created for this event were distributed to the nearly 100 persons in attendance.

Judy Staples, LLL History Chair for 2022-23, gathered all the LLL records for the past 25 years and sorted them into annual notebooks in the manner requested by The Texas Collection. The first 24 notebooks were officially donated to The Texas Collection in April. As the 2022-23 notebook is completed, it will begin a pattern of submitting one annual notebook each summer after the LLL program year is concluded. Minutes, brochures, bylaws, flyers, identified photos and related organizational documents are included in each notebook.

Jeff Pirtle, Director of The Texas Collection, spoke at LLL's silver anniversary celebration.



President Doug Baldwin awarded certificates of appreciation to (L-R) Annette Lindsey, Bob Anne Senter and Billie DeFrees.



Jeff Pirtle, Director of The Texas Collection, spoke about the wide array of documents and artifacts in the archives about Texas organizations

Connecting With... LLL Presenter, Melissa Mullins

By Cheryl Foster

Melissa Mullins is the Aquatic Outreach Coordinator for the Center for Reservoir and Aquatic Systems Research in the Baylor Sciences Bldg. (That's a mouthful! The center is commonly known as 'CRASR'). The center was established more than 15 years ago with input from many university and Baylor water professionals, including Robert Doyle of Baylor and Tom Conry of the City of Waco. The purpose of the center was to create a research and education partnership between the city and the university with a focus on aquatics and water systems. One of the first projects of the center was to provide support for the development of the Lake Waco Wetlands, the jewel north of Waco along the Bosque River.



The center facilitates research and activities for scientists at Baylor through partnerships with local groups such as the Master Naturalists, Texas Parks & Wildlife, City of Waco Parks & Rec department, Girl Scouts, the Mayborn Museum and Region 12 of the Texas Education Agency. It is Melissa's job to match the scientists with opportunities to engage

the public with activities and spread STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) skills to students.

Find out more at CRASR | Baylor University (crasr.artsandsciences.baylor.edu).

LLL Member, Sharon Lavender

by Preston F. Kirk



Don't be surprised if Sharon Lavender, Co-chair of the LLL Host Committee, softly salutes your arrival or casually tosses military lingo into conversation when she greets you. It's only natural, or rather "S.O.P" (standard operating procedure), for this 16-year member of Lifelong Learning.

Sharon was born on the Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune in North Carolina. Her dad, H. Clint McShane, a “mustanger,” one who worked his way through the ranks to Captain rather than through Officers Candidate School, was a career Marine. Her husband of 56 years, Walter, was career Navy, and her daughter was born on the Naval Air Training Station in Corpus Christi.

Suffice to say, she has seen much of the world: “Both coasts . . . Japan . . . Hawaii . . . Subic Bay, Philippines . . .” and just returned in late April from a cruise in the Western Caribbean. But li’l ol’ Lorena TX is where The Lavenders “dropped anchor” 42 years ago to raise their daughter and son as Walter completed his service at Waco’s U.S. Navy Recruiting Station.

The globe-trotting Sharon attended Utah State University studying social work and psychology, but moved on to San Diego, where she worked as a medical assistant. Her roommate introduced Sharon to her (roomie’s) fiancé, a Navy corpsman. OOPs! That was Walter.

Sharon found her stride in Central Texas. “I worked for the City of Lorena for seven years doing about everything: water department, court clerk, election organizer, city secretary. Then I joined the Waco Police Dept. as a records supervisor for 17 years.

“When I retired, a friend told me about Lifelong Learning. I just love it. I thank her every time I see her,” she said. The Host Committee has been streamlined. “It’s so simple now. We no longer make coffee and recruit members to make snacks. It distributes lanyards and brochures at the entrance table.”

“We call members, thirty or more, to introduce the speakers at seminars,” she said, noting “a lot of people are afraid to speak in front of a group.”

In addition to the Waco Civic Theatre, Sharon enjoys the Community Action League of Lorena, a garden club, Methodist Church activities and helping put on Christmas in the Country that supports the Lorena Fire Dept. “And I’m saving up for a trans-Canada train ride!”

The grandmother of four children and one great grandson has also stayed busy with physical therapy, recovering from back and hip surgeries. After a two-year absence, she’s eager to return to the tennis courts with her partner of 20 years, Linda Wright, who, not coincidentally, is her Host Committee co-chair.

Lights Around Waco

By Sam Wilson

Baylor University launched the Illuminate strategic plan in 2018. This plan has already greatly transformed the university. Baylor has achieved a designation as an R1 research institution and has added 20 new endowed faculty chairs. Illuminate Forward continues the successes of the first five years of Illuminate. Goals include the hiring of 100 additional faculty members, improvements to the campus residential housing, unifying the Honors College and completing five major capital projects. The Give Light campaign is the fundraising effort that supports Illuminate Forward.

The five capital projects to be completed through Give Light are improvements to Collins Hall, refurbishment and expansion of the Honors Residential College (Memorial Hall, Alexander Hall and Brooks Academic Building), and the construction of three new buildings: The Mark and Paula Hurd Welcome Center, the Paul and Alejandra Foster Pavilion and the Fudge Football Development Center.

Progress on two of the three new buildings is very visible, as can be seen in the photographs accompanying this article. Groundbreaking for the Hurd Welcome Center

was in February 2020, and it is slated to open this summer. Located on the site of the former Ivy Square shopping area, it creates a dramatic entry point to welcome visitors and prospective students to the Baylor campus and is highly visible and accessible from IH-35.

The Foster Pavilion also is becoming a landmark sight for motorists on I-35 as they cross the Brazos River. It is located between the river and the Clifton Robinson Tower. Groundbreaking was in June 2021. The pavilion will be the new home of the Baylor Bears' men's and women's basketball programs beginning with the 2024 season. It will seat 7,000 fans, which is fewer than the Ferrell Center, but is designed to provide a better overall experience for those fans. With its proximity to downtown Waco, the pavilion also will host concerts and performances.

Both the Foster Pavilion and the Fudge Center will add significantly to Baylor's presence along the Brazos River. The Fudge Center will be connected to the Allison Indoor Practice Facility, near the Governor Bill and Vara Daniel Historic Village, which places it almost directly across the Brazos from the Clyde Hart Track and Field Stadium. It will be the headquarters for the Baylor football program, including offices for the football coaching staff, a strength and conditioning room, locker rooms and a team meeting room. The Fudge Center should be completed in the spring of 2024.



Learn More

This newsletter is prepared for you by the Publications Team: Liz Arend, Cheryl Foster, Karen Holder, Preston Kirk (Vice Chair), Gayle Lintz, Patty Notgrass, Judy Staples, Mary Taylor, Sam Wilson, and Elaine White (Chair).

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LIFELONG
Learning
active mind, active life
at THE MAYBORN MUSEUM

Baylor University's Mayborn Museum Complex | 1300 S. University Parks Dr., One Bear Place
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