

Older Adults on Campus. . .Elderhostel in Many Forms

Elderhostel . . . Also involves retirees in service

Everyone knows about Elderhostel, the educational adventure for older adults looking for something different, but not everyone knows that Elderhostel has a service component. In 1992 Elderhostel launched their service programs to offer vital and vigorous older adults a satisfying route to public service. Older learners participate in programs with projects reading from collecting data on land bird population, to recording howler monkey behaviors, to building homes in Georgia with Habitat for Humanity.

Elderhostel, a non-profit educational

organization, started in 1975 by Marty Knowlton, a social activist and educator. He linked the European hosteling concept with the residential emphasis of the Scandinavian Folk Schools and created a new kind of learning program for older adults. He called it Elderhostel and a new movement in American adult education began. Elderhostel students live on college and university campuses, in conference centers, in marine biology field stations and environmental study centers and enjoy the cultural and recreational resources that go with them.

The program grew from a few hundred hostelers on a handful of New England college campuses into a international



Naomi Fowler is the State Director of Illinois Elderhostel

network of 1,800 participating institutions in every American state and Canadian province as well as over 45 foreign countries. Last year 1/4 million people enrolled in Elderhostel. Contact Naomi Fowler, 217-786-2415.

What is the difference between Elderhostel and the Elderhostel Institute Network?

Approximately 150 colleges and universities nationwide have programs which are independent of one another but are linked to the Elderhostel Institute Network. They are responsible for preparing an educational experience for individuals who are interested in giving or taking classes. Each college

or university plans their own program and chooses their names.. In Illinois there are presently 13 community colleges and universities affiliated with the Elderhostel Institute Network. They include: Bradley University, DePaul University, Governors State University, Illinois State University,

Land Land Community College, Northwestern University, Parkland Community College, Quincy University, Rock Valley College, Saint Xavier University, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, Waubesa Community College, and Western Illinois University.



Making Paper

These Elderhostel Campers shared recycling paper at a recent event held by the Senior Scholars at UIUC. First you take the old paper, put it in a blender with water and mix. Petals and leaves add texture. Put pulp on the form, smooth it out, and voila-you have paper.

Making Music: A University of Illinois Elderhostel

by Cheryl A. Barber, Program Coordinator

If "studying there is half the fun," then "performing is the other half of the fun" each summer at the U of I musical Elderhostel. Participants come from all over the U. S. as well as Illinois. Their musical backgrounds varied from retired music teachers to church choir members, Sweet Adelines, and just those who liked to "sing in the shower." What they have in common is their love of music and their willingness to learn.

Everyday for a week they learn vocal techniques and rehearse a program of sacred and secular works. They also study another musical topic: opera, handbells, dulcimer or jazz dance. On Friday they take their week's work and musical talent "on the road" in Champaign county.

Participants praise Elderhostel? "A week to remember!" "One of the best Elderhostel courses I've ever taken." "I hope to return and I don't want to leave." For more information call Cheryl Barber (217) 333-7369.

Older Adults on Campus. . .Sharing a Passion for Learning

John Wood's Older Adult Program

by Louise Crede, Program Coordinator

John Wood's **LifeLong Learning** Program for older adults began 18 years ago as a joint project between the Retired Senior Volunteer Program and the college. The key to the success of the program is an advisory committee of enthusiastic older adults. The current committee is made up of mostly retired folks from several walks of life: a judge, a lawyer, a grocery store owner, a college art professor, public school teachers, a college nurse instructor, a band director, and home-makers.

The **LifeLong Learning** Committee masterminds the annual Senior Sampler, a day-long conference for adults 55 and over. The event currently draws about 200 people and features noon-time entertainment, informational booths about senior services and small group workshops and seminars on topics chosen by the seniors.

The program has started offering trips and tours locally and out of town. Computer classes are a real hot item now and a new offering this spring seeks to develop an intergenerational theatre group. Great fun!

More Programs for Older Learners

Many community colleges and universities have programs for older adults. Belleville Area College, the College of DuPage, Joliet Junior College, Lincoln Land, Southeastern Illinois College, John Wood, Rock Valley College, Highland, Illinois Central, Illinois Valley, Kaskaskia, Lewis and Clark, **Oakton, McHenry**, Parkland, Shawnee, Kankakee, and Carl Sandburg are some of the most active in LIFELONG, an alliance of community colleges that shares information about programming and develops collaborative projects. Other universities have programs for older adults, besides those mentioned on pages 2-5. For example, SIUE hosts *Dialogue* a monthly lecture series.

John Wood also houses the RSVP (Retired Senior and Volunteer Program) that provides volunteer services to John Wood students and community residents. Contact Louise Crede 217-224-6500 or Carla Gosney for RSVP information, 217-224-3633

New Member of Elder-hostel Insitute Network by Lana Campbell

Southern Illinois Learning in Retirement was introduced to local retirees in October by sponsor the Division of Continuing Education at SIUC. The following committees were selected: **Membership and Publicity:** Dee Posten-Brown, Chair; Jim Quisenberry, secretary, and Ruth Bauner; **Finance and Administration:** Bill Perk, Chair; Dave Christensen, Secretary, and Lois Morgan; **Curriculum:** Emil Spees, Chair; Tippy Bach, Secretary; and Howard Webb.

Five courses are scheduled to begin on March 16: Chinese Cooking; National Issues: Should We Reinvent Government? Surfs up on the Net; Writing Creative Prose; Aviation, Space and Technology; and Writing Expository Prose . Contact: Lana Campbell, 618-536-7751.

Learning is Forever (L.I.F.E)

L.I.F.E. is a peer-driven educational opportunity for people in Macomb and surrounding counties. The program started with an introduction to the concept of an Institute for Learning in Retirement. Twenty-five attended the first meeting and 15 volunteered to comprise the Organizational Committee. During the second meeting the group divided into three committees, curriculum, public relations, and administration/finance. L.I.F.E. was officially launched in August of 1995, one week before the first class session. The first semester provided Art for Non Artists, taught by a retired high school teacher; Computers for the Puzzled, taught by a retired high school teacher and a current WIU mathematics professor who donated his time; Geography of the Military Tract, taught by a retired geography professor; Great Books, team-taught by a retired history professor and a retired Chapter I reading teacher; and World Religions, taught by a retired philosophy professor. L.I.F.E. is sponsored by the School of Extended and Continuing Education with the enthusiastic support of Dean Linda Stickney-Taylor, 309-298-2226

Opportunities on Campus A study of educational and involvement potential for older adults

In 1996, a study was conducted in cooperation with the deans of public universities and faculty of community colleges regarding their opinions of involving older adults on campus in helping roles. The study found that 99% supported the idea and felt that older adults had much to offer. They were concerned, however, about the organization of such programs and the physical problems that might be associated with older adults on campus.

In 1998 faculty and staff from universities and community colleges will conduct survey of older adults from two perspectives: 1) their view about getting involved on postsecondary campuses and, 2) their educational needs. The study is being conducted through the LIFELONG Coalition of community colleges in cooperation with several public and private universities. If you would like to be involved contact Gene Verdu, 618-234-4410 or Jane Angelis, 618-453-1186.