Now in its thirteenth year, ILR continues to be a vital presence in the community of Oxford and beyond. If anything, its reach is greater than ever, thanks in large part to the creative efforts of Jack Haffey, chair of publicity, to spread word of the organization—its classes, special events, and social/service activities—in all directions and, specifically, to Miami alumni in Dayton, Cincinnati, and communities in between who might like to participate in some of the special events or at least to be cognizant of them.

Other members of the board of directors have similarly promoted ILR by developing the curriculum for the two five-week terms, finding volunteers to serve as liaisons for the courses, planning the special events, identifying new members for the board and committees to succeed retiring ones, keeping track of the finances and interpreting the budget, seeing that equipment meets the needs of the teachers and is kept in good repair, administering the board meetings—and, with whatever time and energy they have left, plan for next year in particular and, in general, speculate about how ILR might best prepare for changing demographics, e.g., baby-boomers entering the senior population, that we will soon confront and must adapt to if we are to remain viable.

For their service on the board in 2009-2010, therefore, I wish to thank on behalf of the members at large the other three officers: Jenny Davis (vice-chair), Pat Baugher (treasurer), Diane Thomas (secretary extraordinaire); the committee chairs: Bill Gracie (curriculum), Susan King (liaison and nominating), Jack Haffey (publicity); and the other board members—Ardell Hawley, Sue Jones, Mark Plageman, Betty Rogers, and Stan Unger. Betty joined the board when treasurer Jerry Miller resigned in September. Pat Baugher agreed to take over the treasurer’s job.

Retiring from the board are Ardell Hawley, Susan King, and Stan Unger (who has served two three-year terms). ILR is much the better for their good ideas, sound advice, and commitment to the well being of the organization. They will be missed. Joining the board are Judith de Luce, Tari Tharp, and Bob Wendel. In the coming year Judith will serve as vice-chair; Tari will chair the liaison committee; and Bob will fill the vacancy that Ardell leaves, i.e., representing Hamilton. For these worthy additions to the board, we are grateful to Susan King, who chaired the nominating committee, and to Jenny Davis and Cynthia Kelley, who assisted her. We look forward to their contributions.

Ex-officio member of the board Buffy Hanna, representing Scripps, kept the board—and hence ILR— informed of programs of interest to members, such as Green Tea Day in March, at which ILR was represented by three members, plus Nancy Hoffmann. We answered questions from people who stopped by the table, dispensed copies of the spring course bulletin and souvenirs that advertise the program, and, when appropriate, encouraged the curious and interested to become members.

Ex-officio member Nancy Hoffmann, Program Manager for Lifelong Learning, reported to the board at every meeting, keeping us abreast of developments and changes in the field and their implications for us locally. Donna Gouvan, Program Associate, prepared a financial statement for each meeting and also reported on the state of equipment. Both were of enormous help in bringing the new chair of the board up to speed on the history of ILR and its traditional operating procedures, and making timely suggestions about what needed to be done, when, and how.

We were disappointed to learn last spring, just at the point of applying to the Osher Foundation for a grant, that no new grants were to be awarded, at least in the near future, and Nancy Hoffmann’s hard
work researching and writing the proposal was not to be rewarded. On the other hand, the re-
advertised search for a new part-time ILR assistant was successful. After Nancy Hoffmann and Donna
Gouvan interviewed the three most promising applicants, Betty Rogers, Pat Baugher and Frank Jordan
interviewed them, in turn. We five were in complete agreement about the best applicant, Judy Macke,
who among other qualifications has taken several OLLI courses at the University of Cincinnati and has
chaired, with impressive results, several volunteer organizations. She will begin work in mid July—just
weeks before her son matriculates at Miami. In the first year her salary will be paid by LLL; subsequently,
by ILR.

Curriculum & Liaison Committees

In recent years ILR has sought to involve itself in a more visible and productive way with the larger
community, including the public schools and the university. This year was no exception. Last spring the
board decided to contribute to Miami’s bicentenary celebration by being one of three sponsors ($2,500)
for the musical drama “Down in Mississippi” commissioned from the distinguished African-American
playwright Carlyle Brown and offered as part of the 2009-2010 Performing Arts Series. As well, we
decided to sponsor the keynote speaker for the Freedom Summer Conference ($500), the venerable civil
rights activist Cleveland Sellers, which for a weekend in October brought back to Oxford many of the
people who in the summer of 1964 had trained on the campus of Western College for registering
African-Americans in Mississippi to vote. Many ILR members saw the play, some attended the luncheon,
others took part in the conference sessions, and several ventured on the interactive walking tour of the
sites where the training took place. Concurrent with these events, we offered a course on “Freedom
Summer 1964 and its Legacy” that featured as speakers or performers local Oxford citizens who shared
their memories of this key historical moment in American history, current Miami faculty and staff who
produced the play and organized the conference, and students who reflected on what they were
learning in related courses and activities. Forty-one members registered for the course.

When in a recent board meeting we were looking about for another such topic or event and Diane
Thomas mentioned the forthcoming visit of the Dalai Lama, we had found what we were looking for.
Already Bill Gracie, Jenny Davis, and others are exploring the ways in which ILR might take advantage of
this unique opportunity.

The scheduling and planning for the Freedom Summer Course and the other seventy courses offered in
2009-2010 was the work of the curriculum committee, chaired by Bill Gracie and assisted in the planning
and scheduling by Ann Dunlevy and Elinor Loucks. Other members met to suggest subjects, woo and
recruit faculty for them, and, when successful, serve as contacts for the committee. The committee’s
task is demanding, work for the spring term beginning before the work for the fall term is completed;
the process recurs in the spring. Courses that offer different faculty for each class are especially
challenging. It is our good fortune that, year after year, Betty Rogers continues to enlist speakers for the
popular Midday Lecture Series—one each term—in the Art Museum. Identifying venues that meet the
requirements of both faculty and students is only slightly less complicated, but thanks to Donna
Gouvan’s knowledge of the spaces available and the equipment they possess or can accommodate, plus
her skill in matching the two, we always manage to pull it off. This year we adjusted the ILR class
schedule to coincide with Miami’s new schedule, allowing fifteen minutes between classes. Too, we
took into account the distance between classes that might attract the same students. And we made an
effort to find new venues, such as churches, which are more accessible than spaces in the central campus. Fall term we offered 37 classes with a total of 219 registrants; spring term we had 31 classes with 194 registrants.

Important to the smooth operations of the classes are the liaisons, those members who relieve the volunteer faculty of the nitty-gritty of teaching. Susan King has chaired the liaison committee again this year, with the assistance of Pauly Zody, Cynthia Kelley, Tari Tharp, Dawn Pfohl, Mickey Jewett, Linda Williams, and Jane Flueckiger, among others. Volunteers themselves, the liaisons perform a valuable service, and we thank them for it.

The classes we offer twice a year—the curriculum publicized by our two handsome bulletins—are, of course, the raison d’être of ILR. It goes without saying, then, that no one contributes more to ILR than the curriculum committee: our success rests on their efforts and our deepest thanks goes to the members who serve on it. Lest we forget, ILR is also indebted annually to that other group of volunteers, the faculty who gladly teach the courses we request of them.

Special Events Committee

The other committee that is indispensable to our existence is special events. You will remember that at the annual meeting last year Carol Hennessey announced that she was giving up the chair of special events. Nor surprising, in the same breath she announced the events she had planned for the summer and the fall term, to wit: the June picnic in Peffer Park, the Miami Culinary Tour in mid September, and in late September the “Immerse Your Senses: A Day in Eden [Park]” extravaganza of a self-guided tour of the Cincinnati Art Museum with lunch at the Terrace Café, a matinee performance of “Sleuth” at the Playhouse in the Park, and a visit to the Krohn Conservatory for a special exhibit—a grand finale to Carol’s extraordinary work with special events. In early October followed the Kick-Off Party at The Knolls.

Carol remains a member of the committee and has, in fact, planned the visit to the Pyramid Hill Sculpture Park and Museum, guided by classicist Steven Tuck, scheduled for May 12, 2010. Meantime, Marilyn and Bob Johnson have succeeded her as co-chairs of Special Events and met with the committee to make plans for the future, including today’s annual meeting. Many ideas were discussed, among them a visit in September, 2010, to the KitchenAid industry in Greenville, for which Jack Haffey subsequently made the arrangements. Chances are good that something like “a day in Over-the-Rhine” will follow not long after. We look forward to Marilyn and Bob’s leadership.

For some time now the lifelong learning staff at UC (OLLI) has suggested that ILR partner with them on a program of mutual interest to be held at the new VOA center in West Chester, i.e., a venue of roughly equal distance from Oxford and Cincinnati. This year the idea became a reality in the form of a special event-class, when on November 19, 2009, we co-sponsored a morning devoted to The Ohio Innocence Project. The director of the project and professor at the UC College of Law, Mark A. Godsey, and two men who had benefited from the project with their release from life prison sentences, presented the subject to over a hundred people. The morning started with a lengthy but compelling film of a third case, in order to exemplify in graphic detail the process from start to finish. It finished with the stories of the two African-Americans who accompanied Godsey in their own words. The morning was at times
inspiring, at times discouraging, and always deeply troubling, but informative throughout. Already we are in touch with our counterparts at UC about another such endeavor in 2010-2011. The response from members of both organizations who attended this first joint-venture was uniformly and unreservedly positive.

Publicity Committee

The other important committee, the Publicity Committee, is in reality a committee of one, namely, Jack Haffey, whose ever more creative efforts to publicize ILR by reaching those unaware of our existence were duly noted in the first paragraph. Suffice it to say here that he, too, is a key member of the board and inspires the rest of us to match his enthusiasm for our common purposes and goals. He outdid himself—and set a new bar for us—in arranging with the City of Oxford to hang a two-sided banner across High Street a week or so in advance of the spring term.

Lifelong Learning Office

Needless to say, ILR could not survive, let alone thrive, without the staff of Lifelong Learning—most especially Program Manager Nancy Hoffmann and Program Associate Donna Gouvan, whose assistance with specific tasks crucial to the welfare of ILR I have mentioned earlier in this report. Information Design and Promotions Manager, Kim Logsdon, redesigned the ILR webpage for easier navigation. She routinely provides timely updates and links to news and other events, oversees the distribution and tabulation of online class surveys, and designs and produces all print materials, including special event flyers and class bulletins. Her creativity and expertise are tremendous assets to ILR. Others in the office—Cheryl Young, Deborah Davidson, Lindsay Carpenter, Marjorie Foust, and Jessica Williamson—also contribute to our enterprise. Many, many thanks to all!

Knolls of Oxford

Given the setting of this meeting today, it is appropriate—and at the same time a great pleasure—to conclude by noting that, time and time again in 2009-2010, as in previous years, the ILR has benefited repeatedly, in large ways and small, from the generosity and hospitality of the Knolls, in gratitude for which, the board recently voted to reciprocate in the form of a donation, its specific use to be determined at a later date. Thanks in particular to Tim McGowan, Vicky Trostel, Kelley Needham, Kelli Riggs, and Laura Lacy for their ongoing assistance and support of ILR.

Respectfully submitted by:

Frank Jordan, 2009-2010 Chair, Institute for Learning in Retirement
Nancy Hoffmann, Program Manager, Miami University’s Lifelong Learning Office
Article IX, Section 1 of the By-Laws specifies, “There shall be an annual meeting of the membership each calendar year at which the Board of Directors and the officers shall be elected and annual reports shall be presented and received.”

1) Board of Directors, and 2) Officers, prepared by the Board Development Committee (Nominating Committee) as prescribed by the By-Laws. The Board consists of 12 members, each serving three years with a limit of two consecutive terms.

ILR Board Members 2009-2010

Officers
Frank Jordan—Chair
Jenny Davis—Vice Chair
Diane Thomas—Secretary
Pat Baugher—Treasurer

Members at Large
Bill Gracie
Jack Haffey
Ardell Hawley
Sue Jones
Susan King
Mark Plageman
Betty Rogers
Stan Unger

Slate of Candidates 2010-2011

Officers
Frank Jordan—Chair
Judith de Luce—Vice Chair
Diane Thomas—Secretary
Pat Baugher—Treasurer

Members at Large
Jenny Davis
Bill Gracie
Jack Haffey
Sue Jones
Mark Plageman
Betty Rogers
Tari Tharp
Robert Wendel

Ex Officio Members
Buffy Hanna, Scripps
Nancy Hoffmann, Lifelong Learning
Cheryl Young, Lifelong Learning

ALTERNATES MAY BE SUGGESTED AND VOTED UPON AT THE ANNUAL MEETING