



LIFE Institute

in partnership with Programs for 50+ at Ryerson University's
G. Raymond Chang School of Continuing Education

LivingLIFE (formerly known as LIFElines) VOLUME 26, NO. 2

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EVENTS



May 27- June 3, 2017

fiftyplusfestival.ca

- How we Hear Music
- The Age of Not Acting Your Age
- "Dinner with Goebbels" @ Aki Studio
- And much, much more!

PLUS some good old

*Living***LIFE**

Melting the Ice - FAST!

What happened on February 23, 2017? LIFE Institute held its Melting the Ice Event on the same day that Toronto officially broke the February record for the warmest temperature on record. LIFE members were clearly energized to mingle with each other and to participate in lively group discussions on topics that piqued their interests.

Upon arrival, each member was given a question to ask other members: "What's the weirdest thing you've ever eaten?" "Are you a morning or night person?" The buzz in the room started and continued for the rest of the session. After Ginny Bosomworth, LIFE President, welcomed the members with warm thanks and encouragement, members had the opportunity to participate in two round-table discussion groups from a selection of topics – Music, Politics, Books, Health and LIFE beyond courses. Each of the ten round-tables was led by a dynamic facilitator – thank you for your energy and passion in volunteering! The animation and liveliness of the event resounded in the walls of POD250.

Stay tuned for the next "Discussion Groups"!

-Milvi Ester, Chair Member Engagement Committee

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fashioned Rock n Roll with
"The Dreamboats"

FEATURING :

- Reflections on Canada's 150 Anniversary
- A look at the NEWS– what will the New Newsroom look like?
- Religion & Politics: Convergence or Divergence?

The Newsletter Committee is trying something new.

If you have an amusing short story or poem we would like to hear about it. Word has reached our ears that readership is lower than it ought to be, and we hope that raising the fun factor may help to boost it.

Please send your story (no more than 100 words) to peteraustin388@gmail.com.

Note that the subcommittee's decision on whether or not to publish is final, and we also reserve the right to edit submissions. We are starting off this tradition by including two amusing short stories in this edition of *LivingLIFE*.

Thank you!

Quick Links

- [LIFE Website](#)
- [Contact LIFE Office](#)
- [LIFE Board of Directors](#)
- [Clubs](#)
- [Chang School Programs for 50+](#)

Partners in Learning 2017

On a beautiful spring day more than 80 LIFE members spent their lunch time with Ryerson students, faculty and other special guests to celebrate six outstanding women and to award them each a \$1,000 **LIFE Institute Student Award** Bursary.



(L to R): Judith Levkoe, Chair of LISA Committee, Dr. MacCormick, *Ella Dubinsky, *Chelsea Davidson, *Vivian Huang, *Risavarshni Thevakumaran, *Domenica Huang, Elaine Lam, Executive Director of Business Development and Strategic Planning, The Chang School, Ryerson University and *Julie Williams. *2016-2017 LISA Award Winners

Charles Wright welcomed the students and their guests, together with various faculty members who joined them. Elaine Lam, Executive Director of Business Development and Strategic Planning, The Chang School, brought Greetings to the group. Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan, Co-founder and Program lead ITMD Program, thrilled us with how this program is allowing foreign-trained medical doctors to gain Canadian skills and certification.

We heard from each of the recipients and learned about their studies and volunteer work. Each of them explained their aspirations, when they graduate, to assist older adults through better hearing, disease prevention, and social interaction.

FAQs

Want answers fast? Check out the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) on the website.

GET INVOLVED

LIFE Institute is a volunteer-run organization. Almost everything we do is done by volunteers. This includes the board, the committees, moderating and being a class host. If you are interested in volunteering please contact the LIFE office info@thelifeinstitute.ca or 416-979-5000 x6989.

ACT II STUDIO BUS TRIP

The deadline to buy tickets for the bus trip to *THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL* at the STRATFORD FESTIVAL is only a week away, MAY 5. If you are one of those “leave it to the last minute” people and haven’t bought your ticket yet, you risk missing the bus. There are still some seats available, but this popular event, featuring the added attraction of an on-board discussion by Artistic Director, Vrenia Ivonoffski, is regularly sold out by the deadline.

This fast-paced comedy is



Dennis Bockus, Chelsea Davidson and Howat Noble

Each of the students was hosted by a distinguished LIFE volunteer, as well as many more enthusiastic volunteers who come out to help each year. Here’s what one of our volunteers had to say:

“I really enjoyed hearing from the award recipients. I often think about how hard school is these days-so much more expensive, fewer jobs, and a lot of bad news around the world. These six women are such bright lights. And, I enjoyed Dr. Bhuiyan’s presentation very much. What an excellent idea! So much positivity at the luncheon-I love being there.”



Vivian Huang, Pam Hitchcock and Sasha Mallya

- Judith Levkoe, Chair, LIFE Institute Student Award Committee

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set in a fashionable society awash in gossip and backbiting. Tongues will wag, fingers will point, and sides will split when an uncle arrives home in disguise to test the worthiness of his nephews – but truth has a way of tumbling out.

These bus trips make terrific gifts for special occasions - birthdays, anniversaries and Mother's Day which is May 14.

Tickets are \$125 each and includes the return bus trip and a theatre seat. Hearing aids are available for an additional \$2. Lunch is not included in the package. To purchase tickets, [CLICK HERE](#) or visit the Bus Trip item on the website www.act2studio.ca You may also purchase tickets through the ACT II STUDIO office: 416.979.5000 x 6297 or act2@ryerson.ca

Ryerson aids Internationally Trained Medical Doctors. (ITMDs)

Ryerson University has students from all around the world. Led by **Dr, Shafi Bhuiyan** MD, MPH, MBA, PhD., a forward-looking program at The G. Raymond Chang School of Continuing Education is helping immigrant health-care professionals overcome barriers to employment due to lack of Canadian experience and imperfect language and communication skills. The ITMDs Bridging Program prepares them for non-licensed medical occupations in areas such as healthcare research and management.



The program has achieved significant skill development among students, over half of whom reported “excellent” satisfaction with it. To date, 67 participants have graduated. There is substantial demand for the program which will accept its fifth cohort in the spring/summer session.



The 2017 ITMD Graduates with Elaine Lam, Executive Director of The Chang School, Dr. Shafi Bhuiyan and Dean Marie Bountrogianni of The Chang School

For more information on the ITMD Program please watch this video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=22rmffj-b1Q>

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Getting to know the LIFE Board

In the next few issues of LivingLIFE, we'll be getting to know our Board members through a series of questions we asked so that our LIFE members can have an opportunity to get to know our board volunteers. Here's what we asked:

- 1) What interested you in becoming a LIFE Board member?
- 2) What is one thing that people may not know about you, that you want them to know?
- 3) What has been your favourite or most memorable experience as a Board member so far?

Here's what we found out:

Barry Anderson's answers to the above questions:

1. After retirement, I looked for opportunities to be involved with a like-minded community. I have always believed in lifelong learning, so my wife suggested LIFE, where she was taking a course. The first exposures to the courses and people at LIFE were so positive that I wanted to help in any way that I could. After several years of hosting classes and working with other volunteers, I joined the board and hope that I can use my experience to help LIFE continue to excel.

2. Like many LIFERS, I grew up in Montreal and never intended to live in Toronto, ever. But that was back in the fifties and Toronto, like Ryerson and LIFE, has come a long way. Its diversity is its strength and its joy, I believe. Toronto rocks!

3. Getting to know and understand other board members has been challenging and enjoyable. The range of backgrounds, interests and experience is fascinating and sometimes intimidating. Again, it's all about learning and contributing.

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Classic Novels Book Club

A little over 5 years ago, Martha Wall and I came up with the idea of a LIFE book club, focusing on 19th century novels; together with Patricia Wilkes we launched it. Since then we have met every month except December. More recently, we have

broadened our sights to include 'classic' novels written before and after the 19th century.

Each month a volunteer club member introduces a novel and leads the 2-hour session. This is followed – by those who wish it – by further discussion over lunch at a nearby restaurant.

I myself have been a LIFE member for over ten years and a board member for eight. I am heavily involved in the Calendar Committee, used to edit the LIFE *lines* newsletter, was Chair of the LIFE Travels program for 6 years and have moderated classes on a variety of topics.

Martha, Patricia and I would love it for someone to start a non-fiction book club. LIFE had one for a couple of years, until the person who ran it left. Anybody out there interested...?

-Simon Pearson

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Upcoming Events: Programs for 50+

"Discover Possibilities" at this year's 50+ Festival presented by Programs for 50+ on June 2 and 3, 2017.

Interested in the power of music, or the challenge of religion and politics? Curious about how newsrooms will cope with news in the future? The 50+ festival 2017 includes a look at these fascinating topics along with a chance to reflect on 150 years of Canada's history (with author Jane Urquhart and lecturer Dr. Olivier Courteaux, get smarter about your money and even rock to the music of the 50s, 60s and the Beatles with a wonderful live band. The 50+ Festival of learning will excite and engage you!

This year we will also feature special free lectures during the Ryerson Congress of the Arts and Humanities week (May 27 – June 1), including the opportunity to see Ryerson's urban rooftop garden or take a social justice walking tour through the streets of Toronto.

Our lineup of exciting presentations will engage your intellectual curiosity as never before! Mark your calendar now! June 2 and 3, 2017

Volunteer at Ryerson conference this Spring!

Interested in the arts and humanities? Ryerson University will be hosting the **Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences: The Next150**, Canada's largest academic conference from May 27 – June 2, 2017. We anticipate over 9,000 folks on campus for this event. A few of the lectures will be open to the public, and we will be inviting you to participate in these as part of our 50+ festival this year.

We are looking for 400 volunteers to represent Ryerson.

Timetabling will be on your own schedule and training will be provided. You may even get an opportunity to sit in on some of the sessions only open to the participants. LIFE classes are cancelled for that week, so if you think you can help out, please contact Sandra Kerr at skerr@ryerson.ca or 416-979 -5000 ext. 6979.

- Sandra Kerr, Director, Programs for 50+

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Life's Like That

Stick and Stone

It came without a title or
The name of a creator,
But, when its crate was opened, it
Delighted the curator.

He didn't see a slab of slate
Surmounted by a baton
(As, doubtless, you or I would), but
The fallout from Manhattan:

An atomized Hiroshima –
A torrefied Chernobyl –
A planet purged of gaudery
By conflagration global.

He typed a title, 'Stick and Stone:

The Progeny of Fission'
And put the finished product in
His summer exhibition.

The head, arriving separately,
He scantily inspected,
Adjudged to be the doing of
A dabbler, and rejected.

*At London's Royal Academy, a slab and a stick
were mistaken for an artwork and exhibited. The
sculpture they had been meant to support was
rejected.*

- Peter Austin

LIFE Travel Trips

Short Travel Trip, OCT 13-19,2017

Come and enjoy the best of Ottawa , Montreal, Quebec City and the 1000 Islands with a group of LIFE members. The 6 nights, 7 days tour is offered by Hanover Holidays in collaboration with Carlson Wagonlit at the cost of **\$1,499** for double occupancy.

The new Canadian History Hall (*opening on July 1*) and lunch at the Byward Market are part of the program in Ottawa. On the way to Quebec City, we'll share a lunch at a "Sugar Shack" and hopefully admire beautiful autumn colours. The Plains of Abraham, "Place Royale", the Lower Town, the Upper Town etc. will be waiting for us in Quebec City. Then we'll head to Montreal where after touring the city, we'll have plenty of time to stroll in "Old Montreal". On the way back, we'll stop in Kingston and board a cruise boat to enjoy the beauty of the 1,000 Islands.

For details go to

<http://www.cwttravelsource.com/pages/life-institute---ottawa--montreal--quebec-city---the-1000-islands.html>

- Louise Brousseau, LIFE Travel Club Member

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In Memoriam and The Back Page

In Memoriam

Unfortunately, over the past few months, one of our LIFE members has passed away.

We remember:

Joseph Orenstein, died March 31, 2017

THE BACK PAGE

Members of the Newsletter include Peter Austin, Peter Douglas and Ruth Lerner. To make sure this newsletter is interesting and useful for members, we welcome your feedback.

We also invite members to submit story ideas for consideration by the Editorial Committee and to join the committee if you have the urge to let your inner writer shine.

Please send your feedback or story ideas to Susan Zimmerman, at s_zimm@thelifeinstitute.ca.

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