

ILR TODAY

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In This Issue:

Make an Impact	Pg. 2
Mbr. Survey Results	Pg. 5
Instructor Profile	Pg. 6
Special Events	Pg. 8

President's Message

By Doug Imhoff, President



Our **ILR membership renewal process** began July 1, and if you have not already done so, you can register now for the coming academic year. Please visit ilrbw.org and be sure to tell your friends about ILR, its experiences and rewards.

The 2024 Fall course catalog is now posted on ilrbw.org and **online registration for classes begins Aug. 18 and ends Sept. 1**. You can also register in person at the ILR office during this two-week period (see the ILR office schedule on page 11).

We also offer multiple travel and cultural events this fall, and our ILR Holiday Luncheon is scheduled for Dec. 18. **A full calendar of upcoming events** for the remainder of this year is listed on page 10 of this newsletter, in addition to our website.

The 2024-25 ILR season promises to involve, inform and immerse our members and guests in myriad ways. I would like to wish each of you a fun and productive year with ILR!

Join Us This Fall for a Touch of Class

By Pam McConnell, Vice President, Curriculum

Welcome back to the new school year! **We are excited to offer this fall's lineup of classes** and can sense your eagerness, based on your new pencils and notebooks, shoes and first-day outfits. Our range of themes has something for everyone and includes six new instructors. With the latest flurry of attention on artificial intelligence, **Lude Kemock will teach an AI course** to provide greater understanding about this new-world part of our lives.



There is **something magical with beginning our learning calendar in September**, even though we are no longer in traditional schools of education. I believe the enchantment lies in the excitement of being back with our friends, making new acquaintances and expanding our knowledge. We look forward to seeing you once again!

ILR Scholarship Awards Presentation

By Gary Erlinger, Chief Financial Officer

The 2024 ILR Scholarship Awards Dinner, held on May 29, honored eight non-traditional student recipients. **Each student received a \$3,000 scholarship from ILR**, administered by Baldwin Wallace University's Division of Community Learning.

The ILR Scholarship Program goes to the heart of what ILR stands for: promoting the lifelong-learning process. We are indeed fortunate that ILR has, since its inception in 1993, acquired the means to provide this opportunity to BW students. In that 31-year period, **more than \$471,000 in scholarships and grants have been provided** by ILR's members to students at Baldwin Wallace University.

This year's recipients are:

Undergraduate Recipients

- Kevin Hawk
- Laura McKenna
- Zoe McLean
- Tim Prybor
- Casey Senn
- Cierra Smith-Voytek
- Nicole Zidlicky

Louis Keifer Graduate Recipient

- William Troyer



Scholarship recipients (from left) include Laura McKenna, Nicole Zidlicky, Kevin Hawk and Casey Senn.

Recipients were offered an opportunity to provide brief remarks to assembled guests, and **Kevin Hawk aptly summed up a theme** that was echoed by many students:

“I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude for accepting the ILR scholarship of \$3,000.” Mr. Hawk said. “Your support validates my aspirations and **fuels my determination to make a meaningful impact in the world**. I stand committed to a future where innovation is synonymous with inclusivity, where every voice is heard and every individual has the opportunity to thrive. Together, let us embark on this transformational journey, shaping a world where organizations succeed and serve as beacons of progress and equality.”

A truly inspiring evening, indeed. **Congratulations to our 2024 scholarship recipients!**

You Can Make an Impact

By Gary Erlinger, Chief Financial Officer

The success of ILR depends on its members – their volunteerism, their continuous participation, and their financial generosity. Membership dues and course fees are deliberately modest to enable everyone to enjoy ILR, but **philanthropic giving by members and the community at large is also necessary** to assure a vibrant future for ILR..

Your generosity is key to ILR's success. Because of you and your support, our members can follow their aspirations by learning from faculty and our volunteer staff who are experts in their fields and deeply committed to teaching, mentoring and assisting our members' goals of continuing education.

As an ILR supporter, you give so much more than just your money. You give future members and BW students the chance to experience the continued tradition of ILR and BW, allowing them to understand how powerful a quality education can be. You also provide ILR with the means to maintain its strong ties with senior serving facilities in our area, building strength in our community through lifelong learning.

There are **multiple options available** for helping ensure that ILR will be available for future generations. We invite you to explore the ways you can make a difference at ILR Baldwin

Wallace University – today, tomorrow and forever. Your support will continue to provide opportunities to enhance the world in which we live.

- **ILR Scholarship Fund for Baldwin Wallace Non-Traditional Students**

On an annual basis, ILR provides \$24,000 in scholarships to non-traditional students at Baldwin Wallace University’s Division of Community Learning. Your gift will make a dramatic difference for a BW student who may choose to serve their nation first or a young parent striving to better themselves and their family. Help us build an endowment for the future.

- **ILR General Operating Fund**

Your gift to the ILR’s General Operating Fund assists ILR in its mission to provide senior adults with the highest-quality, most-accessible and least-expensive educational, social and cultural experiences possible. Your gift enables ILR to purchase new materials, supplies and classroom equipment, extend our technological capabilities and continue to provide quality instruction in community venues.

- **Designated Gift**

Designate your gift in honor of or in memory of a loved one or cherished friend.

There are several ways to give to ILR:

- Make a *check* to “Baldwin Wallace University ILR” and mail it to ILR at Baldwin Wallace University, 275 Eastland Rd. Berea OH 44017
- Online at <https://req135.imperisoft.com/ilrbwu/Donate/Registration.aspx>
- Qualified Charitable Distribution through an IRA or other qualified device

Even though Baldwin Wallace University is a qualified 501(c)(3) organization consistent with IRS regulations, the benefits to individuals or organizations for tax purposes vary based on the character of the gift as well as donor circumstances.

The ILR staff recommends consultation with your financial advisor.

As always, **we thank you for your generosity and commitment to lifelong learning** among older adults in and around our community.

What You Can Do From the ProClass Portal

By Karl Keller, Chief Information Officer

The ProClass Portal is a powerful tool used by ILR to help you renew your membership and sign up for classes -- **but there is more, a lot more you can do.** Once you have logged into the ProClass Portal on the upper right-hand side of the screen, at the bottom of the blue box there is a gear and your name. Click on your name. The screen will change and, on the left hand-side in the white body of the screen, there will be three buttons: My Account, Change Password and Log Out. **Go back to this menu at any time by clicking on your name next to the gear.**

If you click on the My Account button, the screen will display information that we have about your account.

The first section is titled **Personal Information** with items like name, email address and phone numbers, to name a few. If you change any information in this top section under home phone

number, you will find a Save button. If you want the change or changes saved, then click the Save button. You will need to make sure there are no errors reported on the save; errors may be reported at the top of page.

The second section is **Contacts**. This section should contain just your name. We have a few accounts that were set up with the help of ProClass as family accounts and those may have a second name. **PLEASE DO NOT ADD CONTACT INFORMATION FOR ANOTHER PERSON IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD TO YOUR ACCOUNT.** It does and will cause problems later on.

Just below the Contacts is a tab bar with the following tabs:

Addresses, My Registration, Invoices, Payments, Memberships, Credit Card

Addresses – Lists the address that we have on file for you; there is a green check mark by the address that should be your current primary address. If you need to make changes to your address, click on the note pad with the pencil . You can make the necessary changes and then click save. If you have multiple addresses, you can click on the note pad with the pencil . Then scroll down and you will see three buttons: Save, Cancel, Delete. Save – will save any changes to the address, Cancel – will not save any changes, and Delete - will delete that record. *If you have an address record with a type of W-9, please contact someone on the ILR Finance team to update that information and please do not delete it.*

My Registration – Lists the courses that you had/have registered for; there may be multiple pages.

Invoices – Lists the invoices for membership, course registration and any donations.

Payments – Lists the payment and the method of payment.

Memberships – Lists the memberships that you have/had with ILR. We are not set up to do auto renewal, so do not check that box.

Credit Card – Lists the credit/debit card(s) that we have on file for your account. If your current credit/debit card has a new expiration date, click on the note pad with the pencil . That will display a screen where you can update expiration date. To add a new card, click on Add a Credit Card.

Four items to note:

1. **Security Code** – Leave blank. This is for your security of your credit/debit card.
2. **Allow Recurring Charges?** Should NOT be checked. We do not do monthly billings like your internet or cable company.
3. **Confirmation Email Address** - Leave blank. If you were to change your email address in the personal information section and you have your old email address entered here, all the emails from ILR will still be going to the email address with the credit card.
4. **Securely store card to Bluesnap for recurring payments?** – Needs to be checked.

When done, click on the Save button.

To remove a credit/debit card click on the note pad with the pencil . Then scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on the Delete button.

If you click on the Change Password button, you will be able to select a new password, confirm it and then click on Submit. This option may not work if your account is one of the accounts set up as family.

The last button is Log Out. This is the graceful way to end your portal session. ProClass will also log you out if you X out.

Beware of Gift Card Scams

Unfortunately, **it can happen to many of us**: You answer the telephone and the caller tells you something terrible will happen unless you send them money, share a password or purchase some gift cards for them **IMMEDIATELY**.



You may believe you must act quickly to avoid a disaster, but that is exactly what the scammers hope you will do. **Please fight that urge and simply hang up.** Otherwise, they win and you lose.

Here are some **basic tips to help keep you from sharing your hard-earned dollars with scammers** who target you via telephone, email or text message:

- **Be selective** with whom you share your phone number and email information.
- **Do not click on links** in an email unless you are 100 percent sure it is a safe website.
- No reputable organization – **including ILR** – will call and ask you to purchase gift cards.

For more details on how to avoid or report gift card scams, visit the Federal Trade Commission's Consumer Advice website. [Avoiding and Reporting Gift Card Scams | Consumer Advice](#)

Member Survey Provides Valuable Feedback

By Beth Townsend, Vice President, Marketing

ILR continually strives to meet the needs and preferences of our members. In order to obtain information from members about what might be added or changed, the Marketing Committee distributed a survey last April to everyone enrolled in in-person courses. We thought you might be interested in an **overview of a few of the general findings**.

A total of 489 people – 117 males and 363 females – **completed the surveys. The majority of respondents were in the 65-74 years age range**, followed closely by those in the 75-84 range. Other key findings:

- Most respondents have been ILR members for 1 – 5 years and many for 6 – 10 years;
- 75 percent of responders **became aware of ILR offerings through friends** (as opposed to the website, Facebook or other avenues of communication);
- Lecture was identified as the preferred form of course delivery (as opposed to workshop or discussion group formats);
- **Most respondents identified history as a general course topic of interest** (compared to religion, science, literature, health or the arts);
- 29 individuals indicated that they would be interested in volunteering with ILR.

This information is valuable to us – many thanks to those who completed a survey!

The Marketing Committee will discuss the survey results at our September meeting to **decide what actions should be taken. We are always open to all feedback** on any aspect of ILR and invite you to email us with your opinions and suggestions at batownsend20@gmail.com.

Instructor Profile: Father Andrew Harmon

By Dan Bomeli, ILR Today Editor

Longtime ILR instructor Father Andrew Harmon has decided that he benefits as much as his students every time he steps into a classroom.

“I teach to learn,” he says. “ILR students are pretty smart and ask lots of good questions, so for some subjects I need to dig in deep by reading a lot and cramming to prepare for class.”



For nearly 15 years, Fr. Andrew has offered courses on history and religion, and sometimes both topics combined – for example, the history of Christianity. His appreciation for both disciplines is reflected in his choices for academic credentials: a master of divinity degree and a bachelor of arts in history. Fueled by endless curiosity, **he has also led classes on “bad people throughout history,”** such as Adolph Hitler and Mao Zedong, plus unconventional events like the Salem Witch Trial.

“I get to learn about a lot of topics I wouldn’t discover otherwise,” he says about his thematic approach. “I’ve really fallen in love with some subjects.”

His greatest satisfaction, however, is **interacting with and getting to know the people who attend his classes.** He describes the classroom – when compared to an online class or formal work setting – as a “free-wheeling atmosphere. The discussions can take you wherever you want.”

Fr. Andrew’s full-time commitment for the past 34 years was serving as pastor at St. Matthew’s Orthodox Church in North Royalton. **He retired in late July** to travel and spend more time with his family, which includes his wife Bonnie, six grown children and nine grandchildren.

Anything else on his to-do list? **“I’d like to start taking some ILR classes myself,”** he professes.

ILR Experts to Speak at National Conference

Two ILR instructors have been **invited to share their expertise on a national level** this fall.

Instructors **Bev Sadowski and Doug Horne will speak at the JFK Historical Group Dallas 2024 Conference** to be held from Nov. 21-23. As **keynote speaker**, Doug will review medical evidence regarding the 1963 JFK assassination. Bev’s presentation will focus on Robert Kennedy’s assassination.

The mission of the JFK Historical Group, according to the organization’s website, is “to change the historical reality associated with the political assassinations of the 1960s by bringing to light new information uncovered by researchers, journalists and historians.”

Attendees can register for Zoom access to the conference if they prefer not to travel to Dallas. For more information, please visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-ifk-historical-group-dallas-2024-conference-tickets-879180762327>.

From the ILR Help Desk

By Karl Keller, Chief Information Officer

Recent question from an ILR member: “What is this S24-XX and why did you use it?”

Examples: [REPEAT from Spring '22 \(S24-02\)](#) or **NEW (S24-03)**

Answer: It is a way for ILR to keep track of the courses that we offer. The number breaks down into three sections:

- The first item is **the quarter** – F for Fall, W for Winter and S for Spring.
- The second item is **the last two digits of the year of the course**; i.e., 24 for 2024, or 25 for 2025. The dash is just a separator to make it easier to read.
- The third item (the last two digits) is a **sequence number** starting with 01 for the first course on Monday morning and ending with the last class on Thursday.

This numbering system **allows the courses to be displayed on our website in a sequence that is by day and time**, since without the number the courses would be listed alphabetically. Another item is that some courses have the same or remarkably similar starting titles, and the number makes it easier for you to know that you have selected the course in which you are interested.

ILR also uses the course numbers to **send out class reminders** and keep track of the handouts for the different courses. (Please remember that we offer 40 or more courses for each of the three quarters and about half of them have handouts.)

Cultural Events Update

The cultural events listed below have been selected for 2024-2025. An event-specific flyer will be emailed to you listing exact times and costs to enable you to purchase tickets. Buses will be provided for all events. Any ILR member may invite a guest.

A Beautiful Noise – Tuesday, Oct. 8

A Beautiful Noise is the true story of Neil Diamond created in collaboration with Neil Diamond himself. ***A Beautiful Noise: The Neil Diamond Musical*** is an inspiring, exhilarating, energy-filled musical memoir that tells the untold true story of how one of America's greatest hitmakers became a star, set to the songs that defined his career.

Christmas Concert at Severance – Sunday, Dec. 15

Celebrate the holidays with a trip to Severance Hall to hear the Cleveland Orchestra Christmas Concert with favorite songs of the season.

Cleveland Pops Concert Music of Motown – Saturday, Feb. 1, 2025

Celebrate 65 years of Motown when we hear hits from legendary groups including The Temptations, The Four Tops, The Jackson 5, Earth, Wind & Fire and more. Get ready to take the stage with The Legacy to pay homage to the best of soul.

“Noises Off” at Great Lakes Theater – date TBD (between April 25 and May 18, 2025)

This sidesplitting romp takes you behind the scenes as a hilariously dysfunctional cast stumbles through rehearsals, opening-night jitters and several escalating disasters. Doors slam, sardines fly and love triangles tangle as this award-winning farce sneaks a hysterical backstage peek at a production that teeters on the precipice of pandemonium and tests the limits of the adage “the show must go on.”

Tour of the Cleveland Natural History Museum – date TBD

The Natural History Museum is undergoing a major transformation. The timeline for completion is not known so we cannot yet set a firm date. We will notify members as soon as we get more details.

Any questions about these cultural events can be referred to Maria Phillips at ilrhelpdeskbwu@gmail.com.

Upcoming Special Events

Dec. 3 **Christmas Through the Arts with Sean Crum** from 6:30-8 p.m.
Registration and payment details will be emailed to you closer to the date.

Dec. 18 **Holiday Luncheon** The Amethyst Strings from the Cleveland Pops Orchestra will provide entertainment.
Registration and payment details will be emailed to you closer to the date.

March 12, 2025 **Spring Luncheon**

May 14, 2025 **Book and Author Luncheon**



Pam McConnell introduces featured speakers at the Spring 2024 Book and Author Luncheon. (Photo by Paula Gustin)

ILR Volunteer Opportunities

The continued success of a volunteer-driven organization like ILR depends on – you guessed it – volunteers. We are always on the lookout for **members who can share their time and talents** to help fulfill our mission.

Several volunteer options include:

- **Host Coordinators (HCs)** – Welcome members at classes, take attendance and assist instructors; HCs can participate in the class without charge. We also have a need for anyone with an interest in coordinating Zoom classes. If you are comfortable working with Zoom **or** are willing to learn, please consider this volunteer option.
- **Helping at special events** with scheduling, invitations, meeting arrangements and representing ILR at display tables during the event.
- **Helping at cultural events** with checking people on and off the bus, etc.

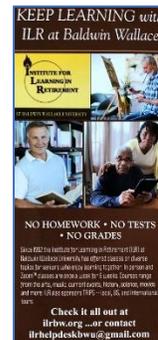
If you are interested in any volunteer opportunities listed below, **contact the Help Desk** at ilrhelppdeskbwu@gmail.com and someone will get back to you in a timely fashion. You will also receive any needed training. We look forward to hearing from you soon!

Got Designer Genes?

Do you have – or know someone who has – **graphic design experience**? If so, we'd like to tap into your talents and update the look of our ILR rack card.

The rack card (see example at right) is a printed piece that is distributed at various community events to help promote what ILR is and the benefits we offer to older adults. We're hoping someone with design experience will volunteer to carefully review the current card and **make recommendations for making it as attractive and effective as possible**.

If you can help, please contact us at ilrhelppdeskbwu@gmail.com or 440-826-3188.



Resources for Seniors: How to Find the Help You Need

By Elaine Joseph, ILR Today Committee

Many older adults want to stay in their own homes as long as possible, but regular maintenance and repairs, plus adaptations for aging, can present multiple challenges. Fortunately, **many states and municipalities offer myriad senior assistance programs** to provide advice or direct help.

Below is a **brief directory of online resources**, for needs ranging from home modifications to Social Security benefits, that you may wish to investigate as a starting point:

- [National Association of Area Agencies on Aging](#): A national association that allows seniors to search for their local Area Agency on Aging
- [Benefits Check Up](#): A free, confidential service from the National Council on Aging that matches seniors with assistance programs and services for which they may be eligible
- [AARP Foundation's Guide to Public Benefits](#): A free online directory that helps older adults learn about the benefits available to them in their states
- [Benefits.gov](#): A federal government site that allows seniors to browse available benefits or use the finder tool to discover programs and services that may apply to them
- [Social Security](#): Answers to frequently asked questions
- [State Health Insurance Assistance Programs \(SHIPs\)](#): A free service that provides counseling to Medicare beneficiaries
- [Hearing Aid Resources](#): A list of programs at both the national and state level

Source: [Help for Seniors: Your Guide to Assistance Programs & Services \(greatseniorliving.com\)](#)

Please note that ILR provides the above resources to enhance awareness, and that ILR does not necessarily endorse the organization, services or advice.

Summer and Fall 2024 Travel Update

By Maria Phillips and Tom Brennan, Travel Committee Co-Chairs

Thank you to all who have signed up for travel with ILR!

Trips are filling fast! Tours that still have openings are listed below so **let the travel company know now** if you are interested in any of these trips.

All information and flyers for each trip are on the ILR website: ilrbw.org

Just click on the title of the trip you are interested in, and you will get the flyer and trip reservation form.

JKL Tours: 440-942-5350 (ask for John)

- Oct. 2-4 Canadian Theater Adventure
- Dec. 2-4 New York City at Christmas with the Radio City Rockettes

Great Day Tours: 440-526-5350 (ask for Marlena)

- Aug. 29 Chautauqua Lake Region
- Sept. 19 Progressive Luncheon Wine Tasting Tour
- Oct. 8-12 The Bourbon Trail Louisville
- Dec. 12 Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens with Hartville Holiday Tour

Nowak Tours: 330-483-4900 (ask for Wendy)

- Oct. 6-10 Agawa Canyon and More
- Oct. 17-20 Wild West Virginia



Any questions about travel can be referred to the travel company or to Maria Phillips and Tom Brennan, Travel Committee Co-Chairs, at ilrhelpdeskbwu@gmail.com.

ILR Calendar 2024-2025

Membership registration for the 2024-2025 year is **open through March 2025**.

- Aug. 18 Fall course registration begins
In-person registration assistance at 325 Front St., Berea, is available from 10 a.m. – noon on Aug. 19, 20, 22, 26 and 28
- Aug. 29 Chautauqua Lake Region
- Sept. 1 Fall course registration ends
- Sept. 16 First day of fall classes
- Sept. 19 Progressive Luncheon Wine Tasting Tour
- Oct. 2-4 Canadian Theater Adventure
- Oct. 6-10 Agawa Canyon and More
- Oct. 8 “A Beautiful Noise” at Playhouse Square
(Registration info will be emailed to you)
- Oct. 8-12 The Bourbon Trail, Louisville

Oct. 17-20	Wild West Virginia
Nov. 18	Winter 2025 courses posted
Dec. 1	Winter 2025 course registration begins
Dec. 3	“Christmas Through the Arts” by Sean Crum from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. <i>(Registration info will be emailed to you)</i>
Dec. 2-4	New York City at Christmas with Radio City Rockettes
Dec. 12	Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens with Hartville Holiday Tour
Dec. 15	Winter 2025 course registration ends
Dec. 15	Christmas Concert at Severance Hall <i>(Registration info will be emailed to you)</i>
Dec. 18	Holiday Luncheon
Jan. 6, 2025	First day of winter classes
Feb. 1	Cleveland POPS Concert Music of Motown at Severance Hall <i>(Registration info will be emailed to you)</i>
March 12	Spring Luncheon
May 14	Book and Author Luncheon

Quick Hits

ILR Office and Help Desk – The ILR Office at 325 Front Street is open every **Monday and Friday** from **10 a.m. to 12 p.m.** Feel free to stop in or call 440-826-3188 with questions. The phone line will be monitored on Mondays and Fridays. Also, the ILR Help Desk email address is ilrhelppdeskbwu@gmail.com for questions.

Connect with ILR and Share with Others --

Website: lrbw.org **Facebook:** https://www.facebook.com/groups/526562059407794/?ref=share_group_link

Become an ILR ambassador! Please share ILR membership and class information with your friends and colleagues, and be sure to pass along this newsletter.

ILR Today is published and distributed four times each year by the Institute for Learning in Retirement at Baldwin Wallace University. The newsletter team includes Paula Gustin, Elaine Joseph and Dan Bomeli. Send your feedback, questions or ideas to ilrhelppdeskbwu@gmail.com. If you send photos, be sure all identifiable people have given their permission to publish.