



# Lifelong Learning Center

by Chris Hayes • Photography by Lynn Mozena

**T**hey say that you can't teach an old dog new tricks. René Friedman, Executive Director of FAU Jupiter's Lifelong Learning Society, would beg to differ. Now the largest adult learning program of its kind, the LLS has been providing a unique learning experience for over a decade that proves that education has no expiration date.

Located at 5353 Parkside Dr. on FAU's John D. MacArthur campus, FAU Jupiter's Lifelong Learning Society was established in 1996 as "a means of enhancing one's quality of life, enriching one's knowledge and providing an environment conducive to good mental health."

"We started it with about 125 people, and now for registrations we are way over 15,000, and we have over 6,000 actual members," Friedman said.

There are over 100 liberal arts courses taught each year in areas ranging from international relations, art, literature and film to history and science. However, these courses are different from those you'll find in any other college for three major reasons: there are no assignments, no grades and no tests.

"Most of our courses are taught just like a college course, other than that they are not graded and there's no homework," she said.

Another major difference between the FAU LLS and other programs of its kind is their approach to the faculty.

"We pay our faculty, so we can demand more out of them," Friedman said.

Professors are compensated as a result of the number of students their classes garner. These payments sometimes come in the form of grants that can be applied to a professor's research project.

One popular LLS professor is Dr. Jeffrey S. Morton, who teaches political science at FAU.

"He teaches two classes back to back, and he has for this coming semester about 1,300 students," Friedman said. This past year his class, "Great Decisions 2009," which focused on America's foreign policy, was sold out.

One thing you'll notice that separates an LLS course from a college one is the participation of the students. Whereas college students often view class as an obligation that they need

to fulfill, LLS students are actively involved, excited to learn, and expect their professors to give their full effort with every class.

"If the professor is late or he doesn't give them the full hour and forty-five minutes, they're a tough audience; they'll be marching into my office."

It's no surprise that the students are excited to attend class with titles like "Music Americana: The Birth of Rock and Roll," "The Best In Jewish Humor: A Retrospective," "Confessions of a Tabloid Journalist" and "Andrew Jackson: Hero or Villain?"

The LLS would not be where it is today without the generosity of a few dedicated locals. The Elinor Bernon Rosenthal Lifelong Learning Complex, completed in August of 2005, is composed of both the Pearl Perloff East and West wings, which consist of three classrooms and the LLS administrative offices, and the Tamar and Milton Maltz Center for Education – a 500-seat, state-of-the-art auditorium donated by one of Palm Beach County's most famous couples. Don't be surprised if you see them sitting in the back of one of the classes; they're regulars of the LLS, as was the late Perloff, who continued attending classes in her high heels up into her 90s.

The annual membership fee for the LLS is \$30. Classes can be taken as both as a member and a non-member, but member rates are always lower, so membership often pays for itself by signing up for two or more classes in a year.

The LLS offers 4-, 6- and 8-week courses as well as one-day lectures. Each class meets once per week. Recently, the Lifelong Learning Society has made registration for classes available online.

For anyone looking for intellectual advancement, social interaction or to just get out of the house for a change, the Lifelong Learning Society is an easy choice.

"It's the college of my dreams, because you go in and you learn, and there's no pressure." **PBG**

*For more information on FAU Jupiter's Lifelong Learning Society, call (561) 799-8500 or visit <http://www.fau.edu/jupiter/lls-jupiter.php>. Guest passes for prospective students are \$10 and classes range from \$20 to \$100 for members and \$25 to \$120 for non-members.*