Captains Corner

Photographs

SAIL Art Show

SAIL 20th Anniversary

Spring 2016

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Celebrating our 20th Anniversary Year!

First, a little history
-- from Sally and Dick Roberts

In the spring of 1995, Collin College President John Anthony was flying back from a meeting and read in a magazine of Elderhostel’s Institute for Learning in Retirement. He asked Margo Ford, Director of Business and Community Relations, to look into the program and see if it was something the college should sponsor.

Margo attended an information session conducted by Elderhostel in Little Rock and reported back that the concept would be perfect for us.

In January 1996, Margo established an advisory committee consisting of college volunteers and community members. Using material provided by Elderhostel, plans were made to hold an organizational meeting open to the public in June 1996. Announcements appeared in the local newspapers. Fifty six seniors attended.

Two weeks after the June meeting, an interim board of directors consisting of officers, committee chairs, and a senior community member were selected. An ad-hoc committee was formed to draft by-laws and plans were made to begin classes in the fall. The name, Seniors Active in Learning, was chosen and a logo was created. As a member-driven program, SAIL was now launched to provide learning opportunities for seniors fifty years of age and older.

The Curriculum Committee determined the type of classes they would like to offer and went about locating individuals who were interested in teaching.

The first semester was launched in October 1996, with an offering of 15 classes, mostly taught by SAIL members. Approximately 90 students enrolled in classes; and by the end of the first year there were over 120 members. SAIL was on a wave of success!

By 1996, we had already attended quite a few regular Elderhostel programs and had heard classmates mention Institutes for Learning in Retirement. They said it’s just like attending Elderhostels, but you sleep in your own bed. So when we saw the notice in The Dallas Morning News, we jumped at the chance to check it out.

We have been fortunate to be part of SAIL’s family all these years. SAIL has enriched our lives by opening new horizons in learning. And the greatest gift is in making friends who share in our journey into learning. We don’t drift through life... we SAIL!
It is my pleasure and privilege to serve as your president. First I want to recognize the foundation upon which the SAIL program is built -- the corner stone, which was put in place 20 years ago. It all began with Collin College and that is the foundation upon which the program rests. The college reached out to the community and met with a number of people interested in working together to establish a lifelong learning program. The college agreed to sponsor the senior program and provide us with a home.

Collin College has been and continues to be committed to the success of this program and supports us in a myriad of ways. They provide us with office space, classrooms, technology, machines and materials which enable us to do our jobs, access to experts -- AV, IT and building management. They provide a liaison, Jim Merritt. I would like to thank Collin College and Continuing Education for their leadership role in developing this program and supporting us for the past 20 years. I want to thank Steve Hardy and his leadership team for their continued commitment to our success.

To our instructors: you and the SAIL program have enriched my life, and over the past 20 years you have enriched the lives of hundreds of seniors. You come from all walks of life. You have brought your life's experiences and your life's passions to us in the form of a course proposal that is then crafted into our curriculum. Your worth to this program is invaluable and immeasurable.

Last semester I worked on a research project comparing our lifelong learning program to those at a dozen universities and colleges. What I discovered was: our program is comparable to those at major universities across the country. These included Duke, Emory, Vanderbilt, University of Texas, UCLA and the University of Missouri to name a few. Our curriculum mirrors theirs in numerous categories. Our program would not and could not exist without you, our instructors of excellence.

To the students: I refer to you and me as searchers and seekers of knowledge. Twenty years ago a small group of like-minded individuals responded to Collin College’s visionary interest in the development of a lifelong learning program. And here we are today! Several of the founding members of SAIL, or as I refer to them, PATHFINDERS, are still with us. Dick and Sally Roberts, Nelson and Marion Parsons, Phoebe Planick and Caroline Brooks all have been with the program since the beginning and Dick served as the first president of SAIL.

There are a variety of reasons we each are motivated to seek a lifelong learning program -- a desire to learn, a desire for social engagement. Or the catalyst could be a change in our lives: relocation, retirement, divorce, death of a loved one. You determine what you want from the program and the opportunities abound. Attend classes, volunteer, become an instructor, serve on a committee, serve on the Board. You tailor the program to meet your needs and fulfill your desires.

Baby boomers are retiring at the rate of 10,000 per day. Some days Jean and I think they are all calling the SAIL office. Seeking and searching. And this brings me to Jean. Sixteen years ago Jean inherited a great program and made it one of the best in the country. Jean’s skill set is diverse and extensive. Her job requires her to be a jack of all trades and to be a master of them all. And she is!

In conclusion, our success is the result of the combined efforts of Collin College and Continuing Education, our instructors, students, volunteers, Jean and the SAIL Leadership team. Together we create the synergy to propel us forward into the future.
Our visiting lecture series was exceptional this spring, with a wide variety of presentations -- from the music of our grandchildren, to health and nutrition, to the music-painting-poetry ensemble, to nurses from the Presbyterian Hospital Trauma Unit, to consideration of time travel and extraterrestrials. Whew! Exhausting!
The SAIL Social Committee is sponsoring the seventh annual exhibition of SAIL artists on Wednesday, April 6, 2016. All skill levels and types of art, including the written word (short stories, poetry, etc.) are welcome.

The Exhibition will be held on the fourth floor of the Courtyard Center Campus from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm. Refreshments will be served.

Please register by calling or emailing Debby Worthington at 214-785-9014 or debby264@twc.com no later than March 30 with the following information: name of participant; category of artwork; title of piece; approximate size of the piece; comments to include on the place card.

Art should be brought to the SAIL office on Tuesday, April 5 or before 9 a.m. on Wednesday, April 6. Please be sure to put your name and telephone number on the back of your piece.

If the display piece is for sale, you may put the price on the backside of the piece. Also, if you sell your artwork, please feel free to bring business cards to place next to your art piece. Members interested in purchasing the piece on display or other pieces you've made will contact you directly.

There is no cost to exhibit or attend this function. And family and friends are welcome to see the Exhibition. You do not need to be a SAIL member to attend the Art Show.

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**SAIL 20TH ANNIVERSARY**

**LUNCHEON HONORING OUR INSTRUCTORS AND CELEBRATING SAIL**

**MAY 5 AT 12 NOON**

**CANYON CREEK COUNTRY CLUB**