

Wednesday, May 6, 2020

Dear LIFE Members,

Welcome to online learning! Our online learning courses officially began on Saturday, May 2, 2020 with one of our favourite and well-respected Instructors, Olivier Courteaux lecturing on The Monarchies of Europe. A total of 175 members signed in to enjoy and experience the first LIFE eight-week online course offered. It was a tremendous success and we look forward to the success of the additional five, eight-week courses being offered this week and many to follow as we move forward with this new learning platform.

As we all know, after the global COVID-19 affected us, the course component of the LIFE operating model had to change rapidly to withstand and survive this unprecedented reality. We are proud to be experiencing success as it represents the dedication and commitment from the membership and staff working collaboratively. We anticipate that this is just the beginning of this new offering. Registration for our second round of exciting online courses will begin shortly. Watch for the updated spring calendar soon to be released.

We are in our eighth week since the pandemic was officially announced and Ryerson closed its doors. It was the beginning of LIFE staff working from home and the challenges and opportunities that we have experienced. At times it feels so much longer and other times shorter. Our way of life along with how business is conducted changed dramatically, leaving us not knowing when life would become normal again or what would be considered our new normal. We are still working with the unknown and this becomes problematic when trying to plan for the months ahead.

Be assured your Board of Directors are working hard on your behalf. Currently, LIFE's Board of Directors are reviewing our current operational model to make sure it will be sustainable as life unfolds in the months ahead for all of us. As of now, the New Course Development and Curriculum Committees are planning for the fall calendar of courses that all of you enjoy, embrace, and look forward to taking. All instructors will be required to provide and deliver in-class and online courses to meet the needs of the current climate of COVID-19 at that time. The Events Committee will begin to reschedule events, such as Volunteer Appreciation, as soon as it is safe to do so.

One question I have been asked lately is, "What are we doing to give back?". The LIFE Institute continually gives back and is proud to do so. Our annual Partners in Learning Awards luncheon was, unfortunately, cancelled due to COVID-19; however, we are thankful that the selection process had taken place prior to COVID-19. Through the generosity of The LIFE Institute, a total of \$7,000 was awarded to seven well-deserving Ryerson students (\$1,000 each) committed to studies and activities designed to improve the life of older adults in the community at large or in continuing education. These awards have been presented annually for over 20 years. Read more about this year's award recipients here [>>>THE LIFE INSTITUTE STUDENT AWARD RECIPIENTS FOR 2019-2020](#)

This weekend we celebrate Mother's Day. Wishing all mothers, a happy and memorable Mother's Day.

Continue to be safe and well.

Sincerely,



Deborah Bonk Greenwood

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