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**University of Minnesota Launches LearningLife,
a Dynamic New Learning Community for Boomers and all Citizen-Learners**
December 1 Fest promises to be the start of something big

MINNEAPOLIS – November 13, 2007 – Over one million of the state’s most informed, socially conscious citizens are reaching retirement age and are about to reinvent themselves and contribute to a better world, again.

The University of Minnesota realized what a “punch” a joint venture with one of the state’s other powerhouses – these dynamic baby boomers – could bring. So, over the past year, it has been reaching out to this community to ask what boomers would need in order to improve their own lives, and the lives of us all.

The answers they gave won’t be “blowin’ in the wind” (to quote a famous Minnesotan). They were captured and transformed into a bold new endeavor – LearningLife – to help boomers and all citizen-learners who want to connect, have fun and learn in good company. Starting December 1, members of this new venture also can stay current, take some chances, feed their minds and do some good.

The public is invited to the launch of LearningLife at a daylong, inspirational Fest (see details below). A wee bit smaller than Woodstock, the thought-provoking Fest will be held on **December 1, 2007** at the U’s College of Continuing Education conference center (St. Paul campus).

LearningLife will focus on three principal themes, born out of the community feedback, to guide members' experiences:

- *Living and Working*: Arriving at a clear sense of purpose, identifying the steps to get there and taking charge of health and well-being.
- *Learning for Pleasure and Purpose*: Expanding timeless knowledge, engaging timely issues and exercising creativity.
- *Legacies*: Deriving true meaning from life, passing on knowledge and wisdom and contributing to a better world.

“This is a very unique and exciting time for American society,” said Mary Nichols, Dean of the College of Continuing Education. “Sometimes the most intriguing turning points in our lives come from forming questions and starting on the search for answers. The University’s goal is to encourage boomers to ask those questions and then facilitate connections.”

To help draw those connections, to the University’s resources, but also to other members and their lifetimes of experiences, LearningLife will feature courses, workshops and events such as the Fest. But, it also will feature an online learning community that creatively leverages the Web for social networking, community-generated content and online collaboration.

“During their ‘next phase,’” said Nichols, “baby boomers are poised to make a real difference in their own lives, and their communities, however they should define that term.”

There is no cost to join the LearningLife community, although there is a fee for some of the courses. To become a “Lifer” (it’s a good thing, really) or obtain more information, visit www.learninglife.umn.edu.

About the College of Continuing Education: Through the University’s College of Continuing Education, motivated adults enrich their personal and professional lives through education. For information: 612-624-4000 or www.cce.umn.edu.

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University of Minnesota
LearningLife Fest, December 1, 2007. Cost: \$80.
Continuing Education and Conference Center, St. Paul campus
1890 Buford Ave., St. Paul

Agenda

- 8:45-9:30** Check in. Morning refreshments. Catch the music.
9:30-9:35 Welcome to LearningLife! College of Continuing Education Dean Mary Nichols
9:35-10:30 **Keynote:** Why Purpose is Good Medicine by Richard Leider
10:45-11:45 **LearningLife Sessions:** Choose two from eight (below) exciting preview sessions. Enjoy one in the morning and another in the afternoon. Having trouble deciding? Don't worry. There is much more LearningLife after the Fest.
11:45-1:00 **Lunch and Mini-Expo.** Sample the U of M. Gather materials, get hands-on demonstrations, interact with experts, play in the LearningLife community, mix and mingle, join or register. Catch the music.
1:00-1:05 Welcome back from Dean Nichols
1:05-2:00 **Keynote:** Five Great Ideas the World Needs by Jerry Allan
2:00-3:00 **LearningLife Sessions:** Morning sessions repeated.
3:15-4:15 **The Life Force.** Experience the stories of the first honorees in the Life Force, an ever-expanding party of people who build a better world by living with purpose and passion. They're contagious!
4:15-4:30 Wrap up from Dean Nichols.
- If you'd like, stay to ask questions, join, or register.

LearningLife Sessions

A Walk Through Cyberspace; Financial Planning for Life; Taking Charge of Your Health; China-Contrast and Contradiction; Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction; Biology and Aging—Ten Things to Know; The War in Vietnam and at Home; and Integrative Life Planning.

Keynote Speakers

Jerry Allan is an educator, architect, and nationally recognized expert on creativity. In his engaging, provocative introduction to LearningLife's first member-created collaboration, Jerry will look at five great challenges facing our world and make the call for new ways of thinking to meet them.

Richard Leider is a senior fellow with the U of M's Center for Spirituality and Healing, where he founded and heads the Purpose Project, an initiative designed to help people find meaning and purpose during the second half of life. As the Fest's morning keynoter, Richard will take us on an inspirational journey to discover how to live purposefully in the second half of life, and in doing so, find new ways to enjoy the world and make a meaningful contribution to improving it.

For LearningLife membership (post December 1) or details, visit www.learninglife.umn.edu.

**University of Minnesota
2008 Learning Life Offerings**

Like Woodstock was *more than* a music festival, LearningLife will be *more than* the December 1 Fest. Membership in the community will also bring courses, workshops, and events that will unfold during the course of 2008. Based on initial boomer feedback, the following selection is **proposed** as of print date. Details will be firmed up as the New Year approaches.

Living and Working: *What do you want to do now that you've grown up?*

New for LearningLife members:

- Your Next Work *
- Financial Planning for Life *
- Who Are You Now? Myers-Briggs Revisited
- Creating Your Future
- Inventing Your Retirement *
- Archetypes and Transitions

Learning for Pleasure and Purpose: *How will you grow what you know?*

New for LearningLife members:

- Enhancing Creative Potential
- Read-in live discussions *

Existing programs from the College of Continuing Education:

- Compleat Scholar—This ever-changing array of short courses is for adults to indulge their passion for learning.
- Osher Lifelong Learning Institute—This membership-based community of older adults features learning opportunities partnering volunteer instructors and mentors.
- Great Conversations—The 2008 schedule will feature U faculty and renowned leaders discussing “American Democracy in Dissent,” “Defending Human Rights,” and “A Whole New Mind.”
- Headliners—This monthly date with U experts covers topics in the news.
- Curiosity Camp—These summer “day camps” are for inquisitive adults.
- Split Rock Arts Program—Weeklong workshops give novice and experienced writers, designers, and artists access to world-class wordsmiths and artisans.

Legacies: *How do you want to be remembered?*

New for LearningLife members:

- Five Great Ideas the World Needs *
- Life Force *
- Life Writing
- Sharing Professional Knowledge
- Make a Difference Network *
- How do you want to be remembered?*

*Online learning community component

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