



OLLI News

*Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
at George Mason University*



Spring 2005, Issue 2

www.lli.gmu.edu

April 4, 2005

President's Message Welcome Back

We are now a week into classes, and I believe everyone is excited about the extraordinary selection of offerings among the spring's sixty-six classes. Some classes are oversubscribed, but everyone has been able to get into their first choice. The Program Committee and the Special Events Committee have done exemplary jobs.

Between terms, OLLI held its first Distinguished Speaker Series Event. Our initial guest was Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman, Gerry Connolly. Chairman Connolly spoke about the challenges of governing Fairfax County. The 70 to 80 OLLI members and guests went away feeling well informed and proud to be both residents of Fairfax County and constituents of Gerry Connolly.

Although the turnout for the Distinguished Speaker Event was less than expected, we will continue with the series during the times that classes are not in session. It is an opportunity to get together with friends and introduce non-OLLI friends to the benefits of our program.

Charles Duggan President

Featuring . . . Jamie Carter

Among the advantages offered to OLLI through its affiliation with GMU is a steady supply of interns. This spring Jamie Carter, a senior pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Social Work, spends every Tuesday from 9:00 to 4:00 at Tallwood working on projects, primarily for the membership committee. She has researched contacts at publications and organizations that may be willing to provide space to spread information about OLLI. Jamie is also helping the membership committee to put together gift packages (a one year paid membership, catalogue, brochure and possible small gift certificate) and to find organizations that might purchase them as retirement gifts for their employees. A resident of Oakton who went out-of-state for her first two years of college, Jamie returned to GMU because of its fine BSW program, and she plans to remain there to work on her MSW. Jamie enjoys her days at Tallwood and says that she is motivated and inspired by our active group of seniors who are so enthusiastic about lifelong learning. If you are ever discouraged about the state of today's youth, stop by and talk to Jamie. You will be reassured.

Elizabeth Crawford Membership Comm.

Board Election Simplified

A few weeks ago you were reminded of the upcoming election to fill the six vacancies on the OLLI Board of Directors. Voting will commence at the Annual Meeting on Friday, May 6, and end at 11:30 on Wednesday, May 18.

You will be pleased to learn that the process has been simplified and streamlined to make it easier for you, our hardworking office staff and the Nominating Committee. As you know, our By-Laws require that every OLLI member in good standing be sent an official Notice of Annual Meeting along with biographies of the candidates for election or re-election. What's new is that your ballot and an addressed envelope marked BALLOT ENCLOSED will also be included. Keep this ballot until you've heard the candidates speak and answer your questions at the Annual Meeting. Then all you have to do to cast your vote is to mark your choices -not more than six- put the ballot in the return envelope, seal it, and either mail it or bring it in and deposit it in one of the ballot boxes at Lake Anne or Tallwood.

Since the ballots and Annual Meeting Notice will be mailed to ALL members in good standing, and ONLY members in good standing, any ballot received in the BALLOT ENCLOSED return envelope is automatically certified. And since you won't sign anything to register, nor will you sign the ballot or return envelope, your vote remains completely anonymous.

You should remember, however, that marking more than six choices will invalidate that ballot. Similarly, more than one ballot per envelope, any ballot not in the furnished BALLOT ENCLOSED envelope, or any ballot not received within the designated voting period will be invalid.

Thus the Nominating Committee is assured that, with the above exceptions, all ballots it receives are valid and has only to count and tally the votes, making the whole process quicker, easier, and more accurate, so you and the candidates will have the results without delay.

It is important, also, that your ballot be handled carefully, since "***No member having lost, damaged or destroyed his/her mailed ballot may receive a second ballot***".

It is suggested that you save this article for reference as you prepare to mark your ballot. If you have a question, ask any Nominating Committee member:

Florence Adler	Art Cook
Deborah Halverson	Richard Lanterman
Michael Styles	Audrey Thompson

Submitted by Nominating Committee 2005

Pandemics Old and New

The History Club will meet at Tallwood on Wednesday, April 6, 2:00–3:30, to hear Bill Deary discuss history's two most lethal pandemics—the bacterial plague of the mid 14th century and the viral flu outbreak of 1918–19. The Black Death probably killed one third of the population on the Eurasian land mass and north Africa; the flu outbreak may have killed about 50 million worldwide over 24 weeks. Concern over bioterrorism and the potential threats posed by drug resistant pathogens, such as Avian flu, have provoked new interest in pandemics.

Michael Styles, History Club Coordinator

Peter Ball Paintings Exhibited

The current Annex exhibit features the work of longtime OLLI instructor Peter Ball. Many of the paintings are of boats, one of his favorite subjects. In another career Peter was a naval architect and designer of the famous Chris Craft power boats. As a professional artist, Peter maintains a Reston studio and frequently exhibits in Reston and beyond. Those interested in discussing his paintings or OLLI class are invited to call him at 703-709-7873.

Source Marvina Munch

Easy to Be Red

Please look for those red dots on the name tags of new members and welcome John Bergin, Doris Bloch, Elaine Cooper, Cil Danielski, Tim Denley, Mike D'Onofrio, Melissa D'Onofrio, Lucia Effros, Ann Garner, Celeste Giesecke, Dick Joyce, Bronwen Lewis, Robert Macfarlane, Jane May, Jan Sasaran, Herman Stein, Dale Thom, Peter Van Ryzin, and Mike Wenger.

If you are an OLLI Troubadour, you can sing, "Hi there, it's so good to meet you." If not, a friendly word will do just as well.

Elizabeth Crawford Membership Comm.

Celebration Event

OLLI's Lifelong Learning Celebration Event for our instructors was held at GMU in the Grand Tier of the Concert Hall on March 23. GMU instructors and student scholarship recipients mingled with OLLI members and instructors, sipping wine and nibbling delightful hors d'oeuvres arranged by students of the New Century College. GMU Provost Peter Stearns spoke briefly on some results of the recent Virginia legislative session. He spoke of plans for a GMU senior housing project and assured his audience that space would be available for OLLI use, ideally within four years. Janette Muir, Associate Dean of New Century College, and William Reeder, Dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts, presented the winners of the student scholarships funded by OLLI in honor of the late Katherine Brooks, first LRI president; the late Abe Spero, former Vice Rector, GMU, and the husband of Lilyan Spero; and the late Shirley Fox, LRI's second president. Scholarship winners included Karin Craven, theater; Alexandra Davis, international business; Natalie Gilliam, integrative studies; Lisa McCarty, graphics design and photography; and Molly McCormack, freshman. Ashley Williams, New Century College, presented an award to long-time LRI member Allen Montecino for his extensive participation and support of GMU programs. GMU President Alan Merten, said, "We are all George Mason," and praised OLLI for helping to tell the University story.

Source: Robert Lanterman

Members Carry the Message

First, a word of appreciation to all of you who picked up brochures and distributed them to prospective OLLI members or wherever you saw an opportunity to carry the OLLI message. You as individuals are better equipped to do this job than a full-blown and well-meaning committee sitting in a room, working up ideas.

We are offering you other products to continue with this job: business cards with essential OLLI info printed on front and back that, in brief, tell the OLLI tale and brightly colored posters that do the same. You can carry the cards in your wallet, which works better for men than the brochures, and you can place the posters wherever you see the opportunity in your community or neighborhood. One member couple created their own poster and put it on the bulletin board of their homeowners association. We applaud that kind of initiative and stole their idea for all of OLLI because we thought it was so good.

A supply of all items will be placed in the social room at Tallwood and the hallway at Lake Anne, Reston.

So carry on. Your Institute needs you and thanks you.

Debbie Halverson, Membership Committee Chair

GMU Coming Events

GMU Dance Company Gala Concert

featuring guest choreographers Doug Varone & Lar Lubovitch
Fri. Apr. 8, Sat. Apr. 9, at 8:00
\$15 adults, \$12 seniors/students
Concert Hall. Tickets required.

GMU Players – Studio Series

Knocking on Death's Door

Fri. Apr. 8 at 8:00
Sat. Apr. 9 at 2:00 and 8:00
Sun. Apr. 10 at 2:00
Free but tickets required
Black Box theater.

United States Marine Band

Sun. Apr. 10 at 2:00
Free
Concert Hall.

GMU Chorale

Sun. Apr. 10 at 7:00
Free
Harris Theater.

from www.gmu.edu/cfa/calendar/april/

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