



# OLLI News

*Osher Lifelong Learning Institute  
at George Mason University*



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[www.lli.gmu.edu](http://www.lli.gmu.edu)

April 18, 2005



## Lifelong Learning Celebration

OLLI instructors and students mingled with GMU students and OLLI scholarship winners at the March 23 Lifelong Learning Celebration.

Top, Janette Muir, Associate Dean, New Century College, with freshman Molly McCormick, the Abe Spero scholarship winner.

Center, scholarship winner Lisa McCarty, a student in graphics arts/photography.

Bottom, GMU President Alan Merten talks with OLLI founding member and senior president emeritus Lilyan Spero.

Photos by Richard Lanterman



## Free to a Good Home

If you have not been distracted by the cookies and the stimulating conversation, you may have noticed the book shelves near the coffee table in the Social Room at Tallwood. The books have been donated by members for other members to read and enjoy. As the new signs indicate, you may take a book home and bring one back--the the same book or a different one. No sign out necessary.



You may remember an article in a winter issue of OLLI News asking members to put in book requests. So far, the kinds of books that people would like to read include legal thrillers, collections of poetry, mysteries, novels in a series featuring the same main character, and books about Virginia history. When you decide to prune your collection to make room for new books, please consider bringing a few to OLLI, especially if you have any in these categories.

Further requests for the kinds of books you would like to read may be placed in the suggestion box in the Social Room. They will be published in future issues of OLLI News.

Elizabeth Crawford  
MembershipCommittee

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### **Improve OLLI: Make a Suggestion!**

Ever complain about something at OLLI and think of a way to improve the situation? Did you then just forget about it, figuring no one would pay any attention? Not so! Your suggestions DO matter. Here are some recent examples of suggestions that have benefited all of us:

In TA-1, many members had a difficult time viewing projected presentations because the pull down screen was positioned low, below the heating/air-conditioning ducting. A member suggested reversing the seating arrangement at TA-1 so chairs would face away from Roberts Road, and the pull down screen could be placed at ceiling level. Result: The seating has been reversed, a new screen has been installed at ceiling level, and attendees now have a much improved view of the screen.

Also in TA-1, the light shining through the glass in the doors was interfering with projected presentations. Several members suggested installing blinds or a shade on the doors. Result: Blinds have been installed over the glass, and now the room can be fully darkened.

In TA-3, instructors were having difficulty showing videotapes and DVDs, and attendees were complaining. Several members suggested buying a new VCR/DVD combination player as a replacement for the separate, older audio/video components. Result: TA-3 has been upgraded with a new VCR/DVD combination player and console, thereby eliminating the presentation delays that had frustrated instructors and class attendees.

If YOU have a suggestion, tell the administrator in the office or any director (all board members wear green name tags). Or contact Debbie Halverson, Membership Committee chair (she has "Talk to Me" days at both Tallwood and Lake Anne). You can put your idea in the suggestion box in the Tallwood Social Room, or submit it online by visiting the Contact Us page at [www.oli.gmu.edu/](http://www.oli.gmu.edu/) (all written suggestions may be submitted anonymously). Help improve our wonderful institute!

Rod Zumbro, OLLI member

## **The OLLI Expo: Friday, May 13, 10:00 to 2:00, Tallwood**

In past years, we called it an open house to recruit new members and we held it in the fall. We chose spring this year when the Tallwood campus is in bloom and as an end-of-year celebration. We dubbed it “The OLLI Expo” because “expo” is short for exposition”, or as Mr. Webster says “a public exhibition or show”.

Our invited guests, potential new members, will see what we are about, with sample classes, performances by the Singing for Fun class, readings by our poets, music by the Recorders Consort and presentations by Readers’ Theater. We’ll use all our classrooms and, providing good weather, the grounds as well.

But it’s more than just a recruiting opportunity. Our members should get in on the fun and so you are invited as well. Come be entertained and mingle with your OLLI friends on a hopefully beautiful May day. Because events are scheduled throughout the day, just drop in at various times to spread out the crowd.

We need extra help to staff this ambitious undertaking: greeters, tour guides, parking lot attendants, assistants in various TA’s along with smiling faces to welcome our guests. In the next few weeks, you’ll notice sign-up sheets in Tallwood’s social room and at Reston where you may indicate your willingness to help. Participating as a volunteer guarantees you a front row seat at a show not to be missed.

Debbie Halverson, Membership Committee Chair

## **Coming events at GMU:**

### **GMU Dance Company Spring Concert**

Thurs. Apr. 21 – Sat. Apr. 23 at 8:00  
\$10 adults; \$7 seniors/students  
Harris Theater

### **GMU Players – Mainstage**

#### ***Mephisto***

Thurs. Apr. 21 – Sat. Apr. 23 at 8:00  
Thurs. Apr. 28 – Sat. Apr. 30 at 8:00  
Sat. Apr. 23, Sun. Apr. 24, at 2:00  
Fri. Apr. 29, Sun. May 1 at 2:00  
\$10 adults, \$7 seniors/students  
TheaterSpace

### **Virginia Opera**

#### **Gounod’s *Faust***

Fri. Apr. 22 at 8:00  
Sun. Apr. 24 at 2:00  
\$84, \$68, \$44  
Concert Hall

[www.gmu.edu/cfa/calendar/april](http://www.gmu.edu/cfa/calendar/april)  
Jan Bohall

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