



# OLLI News

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute  
at George Mason University



Spring 2005, Issue 8

www.olli.gmu.edu

May 16, 2005

## State of the Institute: President Charles Duggan's Report to the Membership

2004-2005 has been a good year for OLLI. We have accomplished many things and made the program stronger. I will try to cover the highlights for you, but please forgive me if I miss a few—so much was achieved that made a difference for all of us. As I began to prepare this article, I started a list of who did what and when and quickly concluded that I shouldn't even try. So many people made contributions that I realized that I would not be able to talk about everyone. Therefore, I won't mention any names to be sure that I'm not leaving anyone out. I will limit my comments to that which we have accomplished. Nevertheless, on behalf of the membership, thanks to all of you who generously gave of your time and talents to make these things happen and to make OLLI a better institute for all of us.

*(Continued on page 4)*

## LAST CALL

Time is running out! If you haven't already cast your vote for your Board of Directors choices, you still have a couple days—but ONLY a couple—voting closes at 11:30 AM on Wednesday, May 18th. So get your ballots in their **BALLOT ENCLOSED** envelopes into one of the ballot boxes, either at Tallwood or Lake Anne.

Your choices will determine the direction OLLI takes in the years ahead.

Submitted by Nominating Committee 2005

## Profile: Italian the Fun Way with Renata Bardo

Italian the Fun Way is an apt title for Renata Bardo's popular language class. She charms her students immediately with her insistence that "We're here to have fun." Her enthusiasm for her native tongue and her love of Italy infuse her personality. Having taught at OLLI for seven years, she sings the praises of her students and takes pride in the fact that total novices leaving her first class of an hour and a half, can speak and understand many common Italian phrases. Her OLLI students are so eager to learn that they actually remind her to give them an assignment at the end of class. "That's the beauty of teaching seniors," she says.



Renata came to the U.S. when she married her husband whom she had met as a teenager in Milan at the end of WWII. Theirs was a romance that almost didn't blossom. When he was shipped back to the States from Italy, Anthony Bardo had promised to write, but she never received any letters.

Finally after four years, her parish priest came to visit her home to ask why she hadn't answered any of her suitor's letters. He had persuaded his own parish priest in this country to contact Renata's priest. As they talked, Renata's mother left the room and returned with a bundle of love letters she had been intercepting over the years. She had kept them from Renata because she had been dreading the possibility that her daughter might move so far away.

Renata's background is varied. She has been a retail buyer for the Hecht Company, a librarian in the Federal Government, an Italian language instructor for the Defense Department, a Berlitz teacher and a private tutor. In addition to teaching at OLLI she volunteers at Fairfax Hospital, and loves to paint and to cook. If you've ever heard the musicality and liveliness of Italiano and thought it might be fun to learn, try Italian the Fun Way.

Louise Richardson, Publications Committee  
Photo by Richard Lanterman

### Summer Sizzles!

This summer promises to be a runaway success for OLLI members. We start off the term with a timely visit from former Senator Charles Robb, co-chair of the Iraq Intelligence Commission. Senator Robb will explain the panel's findings and recommendations. To keep you apprised on international issues, you will have a chance to visit the World Bank Headquarters to have a briefing on the bank's support of developing countries. There will be an opportunity to broaden your perspective on the Middle East, Vietnam, Haiti, Nigeria, and Berlin and also to explore the ups and downs of our globalized world today. On a more local note, State Senator Patricia Ticer and Delegate James Dillard will catch us up on what's been happening in Richmond at the General Assembly this year. Even closer to

home, we will celebrate 200 years of local history at the Fairfax's Museum.

The literary minded may explore the literature of Africa by African writers, take a look at Chekhov's plays, survey French Literature, enjoy short stories, read the literature of baseball, and see how fairy tales are adapted to contemporary films.

History buffs will enjoy classes with tempting titles such as "Another Sally Hemmings case? George Washington and West Ford," "White Southern Womanhood," "Churchill and the Cabinet War Rooms," "Reconstructing an Ancestor's Civil War History," "Confessions of a Cold Warrior" and "Qianlong, Emperor of China".

On the practical side, there are presentations on IRA Benefits, Mature Operators Driver Improvement, Long Term Care and End of Life Issues and, of course, a class on training your memory. OLLI travelers can look forward to chairside tours of South America, Iran, Scandinavia, and Egypt.

For those with a love of music and theater, a trip to Baltimore's Hippodrome for a showing of the *Lion King* and a trip to the Contemporary American Theater Festival in Shepherdstown will be summer highlights. Other musical and artistic offerings will liven up your summer—a jazz seminar, recorder consort, the music of Maurice Ravel, and the art of the Kreeger Museum. Classes in watercolor painting and art forgeries are also planned. We have a variety of lunches scheduled so that you can get together with OLLI friends over the summer.

Enjoy the upcoming summer session!

Carol Ferrara, Program Coordinator

## **Multimedia Art in Annex Room**

Using a variety of art techniques and media, the students of Peter Ball provide a beautiful and impressive exhibit in the Annex. Subject matter ranges from abstract to representational in a colorful and vibrant display of imagination, talent and skill. This exhibit, along with watercolor paintings by members of Harriet Grever's class, showed EXPO visitors the range and depth of artistic talent brought to fruition in OLLI classes.

Marvina Munch, Facilities Committee

## **Coming Events at GMU**

[www.gmu.edu/cfa/calendar/may/](http://www.gmu.edu/cfa/calendar/may/)

### **Danzamarina:**

#### **Somewhere in LaMancha**

Celebrating the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of Cervantes' Don Quixote through Spanish dance. Thursday, May 19, at 7:30. Free, donations welcome.

Harris Theatre

#### **United States Marine Band**

Sunday, May 22, at 2:00. Music of Berlioz, Schmitt and Milhaud. First Lieutenant Michelle Rakers, conducting. Free.

Concert Hall

#### **Fairfax Symphony Orchestra**

*Lord of the Rings Symphony*

Friday, May 27, & Saturday, May 28, 8:00, Sunday, May 29, at 1:30. \$65, \$55, \$50, \$40.

Concert Hall

#### **American Youth Philharmonic**

Sunday, June 5, at 6:00. \$14, \$10.

Concert Hall

For more information call

703-993-8888

Jan Bohall

## **Thanks to Instructors, Volunteers**

Please take a few minutes before the term ends to show your appreciation for our spring term instructors. A few words after class or a personal note is all it takes to let our volunteer teachers and coordinators

know that they are appreciated. You'll find addresses for instructors who are also OLLI members in the spring membership directory. The Tallwood office will forward your email message or note to other instructors. Among our many volunteer members, class liaisons and office volunteers deserve special thanks as the term ends.

Carol Henderson, Publications Committee

## ***Fairfax Ink***

### ***Free Literary Magazine!***

A brand new issue of *Fairfax Ink*, the OLLI-GMU literary magazine, is available at Tallwood and Lake Anne. Pick up a copy and enjoy stories, poems and art by your colleagues. The limited number of copies are now free to members, but we ask that after reading one, you return your copy for someone else to enjoy.

Carol Henderson, Publications Committee

## **Mason Mentors**

OLLI volunteers have successfully worked with GMU students through the Writing Center and the English Language Institute. Improvements have been made to improve earlier deficiencies and to strengthen the teacher-student relationship. Watch for a notice in the OLLI Times this summer regarding a joint workshop on the programs and consider becoming a Mason Mentor. Contact Bob Bohall, University Liaison for details.

Bob Bohall, University Liaison.

## **Seeking Restaurants**

If you have a favorite restaurant that you would like to recommend for an OLLI group luncheon, please call or email Mary Coyne at 703-435-9721 or [mcoyne@gmu.edu](mailto:mcoyne@gmu.edu). The Special Events Committee is especially interested in family-owned ethnic restaurants large enough to accommodate a large group.

Mary Coyne, Special Events Committee

## President's Annual Report continued from page 1.

**The Osher Grant.** Literally, on the last day before the election of new officers in June 2004, we were advised that LRI had been awarded the Osher grant – a nice farewell gift from the previous administration. We agreed to the foundation's terms and changed our name to OLLI in July. We have put the funds to good use, primarily by constructing the two new restrooms and upgrading the audio-visual equipment in all classrooms at Tallwood and Lake Anne. OLLI is truly blessed that we have been chosen to be one of the lucky recipients of an Osher grant. Our challenge now is to prudently use the remainder of the grant and subsequent grants, if awarded, to provide the best LLI experience in northern Virginia, if not the nation. I believe we have the talent to do it.

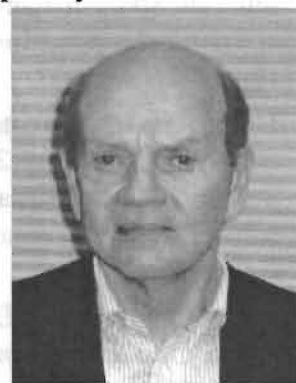
**Programs.** We have improved and expanded the class offerings. This spring we have offered 62 classes compared to 53 last year. For the 2004 calendar year, we offered 210 classes, 32 special events and nine continuing clubs. A Program Review Committee was established to provide continuing oversight of the program, and the resource groups meetings were expanded to two per year. The "Movers and Shakers" course was introduced and quickly became a member favorite. We drew many distinguished speakers over the year, including past and the current chairs of Fairfax County.

**Facilities.** I mentioned above how we have made both Tallwood and Lake Anne more comfortable. We have also made the Tallwood facility aesthetically more appealing due to the countless hours put in by the Landscaping Committee. If you have a green thumb, they can use your talents – they are always looking for volunteers. We also brought broadband into the office

making it easier for the staff to communicate with the world.

**Membership.** Total membership has been relatively flat and is somewhat of a disappointment as the Membership Committee has made a concerted effort to get the word out. We will continue trying by hosting events like the OLLI EXPO and making presentations to any group that will listen to us. In the end, however, new members are recruited by word of mouth. So tell your friends about us, bring them to a class, give them an OLLI brochure and tell them to watch the "Story of OLLI" video. It is now available on the Internet at [www.olligmu.org/ollistory.htm](http://www.olligmu.org/ollistory.htm) (cable or DSL access required). You can also borrow the DVD or VCR from the office.

**Hospitality.** The Hospitality Committee has continued to play host whenever OLLI has held a social gathering or a special meeting and organized a well-received 2004 Holiday Party at the Fairfax Country Club. Members who attended liked the setting, and plans have been made to return there this year.



**Charles Duggan**

**Nominating.** The Nominating Committee has done a fine job reorganizing and streamlining the candidate selection and voting process.

**Publications.** The *OLLI News* has now replaced both the quarterly *OLLI Times* and *This Week at OLLI*. The *OLLI Briefs* has just been introduced as a brief email summary of upcoming OLLI events. We have a new and attractive OLLI brochure in color, and the quarterly *Catalog* continues to be our best recruiting tool. Two *Fairfax Ink* issues have

been published showing off the literary talents of our members. I have also tried to help keep the members informed by sending out periodic president's email messages.

**Long-term Planning.** A Long-term Planning Committee has been established to consider OLLI's long-term needs and to work with the university on mutual projects. The committee is also responsible for determining the best use of the Osher grant funds.

**Development.** The Development Committee was responsible for winning of the Osher grant and continues to seek the support of outside sources that will help OLLI continue to prosper and grow. We are very grateful to the approximate 200 OLLI members that have generously contributed to the Friends of OLLI.

**Finance.** We ended the 2004 under budget by approximately \$6,300. In spite of the dues increase, the 2005 budget anticipates a deficit of approximately \$10,000. The Board of Directors will endeavor to keep expenses as low as possible. Expenses will increase in 2005 primarily because of staff payroll.

**Relationship with GMU.** We have a very positive and supportive relationship with GMU. We have successfully worked with more schools and departments and have been able to entice an increasing number of professors to come and teach our classes. The receipt of the Osher grant has also gained for us new recognition and respect throughout the campus. The university is including OLLI in the planning for a new "University Based Retirement Community" to be built on campus. The plans are very preliminary at this time, but the initial concept includes a home for OLLI and a theater for the Theater of the First Amendment. Everything at this point is in the initial stage but it does show that we are recognized in the university's long-term plans. We will keep you posted as events develop.

I believe this covers the highlights of the year. Forgive me if I left something out. Again, thanks to all who made it possible.

Charles Duggan, President

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*Osher Lifelong Learning Institute  
at George Mason University  
4210 Roberts Road  
Fairfax, VA 22032  
Phone: 703-503-3384*

DATE DAY	TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
<b>MAY</b>			
18 Wednesday	11:30	voting ends	
	11 AM-2 PM	Senior Expo at RCC/Hunter Woods	
	1:30	Fiction Writers	Annex
	1:30	Bridge, Scrabble	TA-3
	2:00	Course 308 extra session/film	TA-1
	2:00 PM	"Patricia Miller" special event	GMU chapel
20 Friday		spring term ends/summer registration begins	
	10:00	Membership committee meeting	TA-1
	10:30 AM	Homer book club	Annex
23 Monday		Election results announced to membership	
25 Wednesday	10:00 AM	Investment Forum	TA-2
	10:00 AM	Bridge club	TA-3
26 Thursday	9:30 AM	Course 502 make-up class	Annex
	9:30 AM	Course 410 make-up class	TA-2
27 Friday	10:00 AM	Classic Fiction book club	Reston Reg. Library
	10:30 AM	Homer book club	Annex
30 Monday		OLLI closed for Memorial Day holiday	
<b>JUN</b>			
1 Wednesday	10:00	Bridge club	TA-3
3 Friday	10:00 AM	Program Committee meeting	TA-2
	10:00 AM	Board meeting to elect officers	TA-1
	10:00 AM	Recorder Consort	TA-3
	10:30 AM	Homer book club	Annex
7 Tuesday		Summer registration ends	
8 Wednesday	10:00	Book Club	TA-2
	10:00	Investment Forum	TA-1
	10:00	Bridge club	TA-3
	Noon	Let's Do Lunch	Mama's Italian Rest.
10 Friday	10:00 AM	Recorder Consort	TA-2
	10:30 AM	Homer book club	Annex
		confirmation letters to be mailed	
15 Wednesday	10:00 AM	Book Club	TA-2
	10:00 AM	Investment Forum	TA-1
	10:00 AM	Bridge club	TA-3
17 Friday	10:00 AM	Board Meeting	TA-1
	10:00AM	Recorder Consort	TA-2
	10:30AM	Homer Book Club	Annex