

## President's Message

# Annual Report

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 a contribution 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.

**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.

**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 Inks* 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  
May 7, 2005