

Stephanie Trachtenberg, Burke
 John Trevey, Fairfax
 Bo Tumasz, Annandale
 Valerie Turner, Arlington
 William (Bil) Vogelson, Arlington
 Catherine Wagner, Alexandria
 Bill Watson, Centreville
 Joseph Whitehill, Springfield
 Frances Williams, Oakton
 Carol Wolter, McLean

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Inside OLLI-Mason



Where in the World Is Jennifer Disano?



by Nancy Scarborough, OLLI E-News Staff Writer

As part of OLLI-Mason's series about its inside workings, our new Executive Director (and former geography major!) Jennifer Disano shares where she goes and what she does in a typical day.

Jennifer believes that OLLI has a "kind of heartbeat to each day." There is a "steady pulse of regular assignments," but there are "days when that heart rate is up and racing!"

A typical day for Jennifer starts in the main office with the staff, as they

discuss the "daily 'to-do' list." They "work as a team to consolidate tasks, share ideas and generate solutions." As the day continues, she might have meetings with "committee groups, external partners and vendors." She also can be found visiting with members between sessions and sometimes stopping by a class for a lesson. Program planning is something which she particularly enjoys.

OLLI President Martha Scanlon has been a "wonderful mentor" to Jennifer. The two might frequently be found discussing OLLI happenings, pressing issues, or future plans. Jennifer says that Martha has helped her "tremendously to ease into the ED position."

What has surprised Jennifer the most? She has found that there is an intensity to the job" which she did not expect. "At OLLI, I feel I need to rely on all my senses to attend to group and individual concerns, with a deliberate effort to listen, observe and look at all sides of an issue." She has discovered that "patience and calm reserve are required, as well as enthusiasm and gratitude." She recognizes that "OLLI members are a worldly group, to say the least," and many times she finds herself "naturally yielding to that knowledge base."

Jennifer compares the ED job to that of being principal of a school. There is a "high profile aspect." I am looked to as the "proud representative of OLLI, the happy, welcoming greeter." The ED, however, is also the "enforcer of the rules or bearer of bad news (e.g., closings)." It is something which she is "still getting used to."

"The good news," Jennifer says, is that "this type of role really suits me. I'm generally a happy person with a 'sunny side of life' personality, but I'm also a rule follower, a pragmatist and a realist, so the principal role for me is spot on."

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Freedom and Learning Forum at George Mason University

The George Mason University Office of Strategic Communications announces a Freedom and Learning Forum event hosted by University President Dr. Angel