

# OLLI

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## Lost Causes: The Invention of Confederate Myth and Memory, 1880-1915

**Friday, April 9**  
**1:00–2:30pm**

Noah Cincinnati is an associate professor at Northern Virginia Community College, with a PhD in history from Johns Hopkins University.

American politics has once again been gripped by the nation's seemingly unending civil war. Competing acts of political violence and social justice call for renewed national attention to the problem of Confederate myths and memories in American culture. Many Confederate myth-makers and apologists clearly understood, as they erected monuments and sites of celebration, that Confederate history was not really about the past, but rather it was about their present.

## A Supervisor's Update on Fairfax County

**Wednesday, April 28**  
**2:15–3:40pm**

Jeffrey C. McKay is Chair of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

Fairfax County is the largest jurisdiction in Virginia by population, is an economic engine and prides itself on its diversity. Jeffrey McKay, chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, will provide an update on the state of Fairfax County present and future.

## You Can't Make This Stuff Up

**Wednesday, May 12**  
**2:15–3:40pm**

Michele Romano is a retired physician.

At times certain material makes it into the medical literature that is flat out wrong, absurd, often hilarious, and sometimes dangerous. Then it is picked up by the media, distorted, rearranged, perpetuated, and spread to the far reaches. After a while it becomes gospel handed down, never to be questioned again. You will be surprised at some of the things told that are nothing more than urban legend.

## Black Flags and Red Lines: The Untold Story of the Most Daring Disarmament Feat of Modern Times

**Monday, May 17**  
**9:40-11:05am**

Joby Warrick is a best-selling author and national security correspondent for The Washington Post.

In 2013, a poison gas attack against Syrian civilians presented the Obama administration with an unexpected opportunity: a chance to snatch away a vast trove of highly lethal chemical weapons that was at imminent risk of being stolen by ISIS or commandeered by pro-Iran militants. When no country would take the poisons, American engineers turned an old ship into a floating industrial waste factory and destroyed the chemicals at sea.

## Leonardo da Vinci's Hidden Message: Leonardo's Knots

**Tuesday, May 24**  
**12noon-1:25pm**

Caroline Cocciardi, a writer and filmmaker, studied Leonardo da Vinci while living in Rome.

Caroline Cocciardi focuses on a facet of Renaissance artist Leonardo da Vinci's artwork that has been overlooked for centuries but visible to the naked eye, which are Leonardo's placement and use of inspired knots throughout his artwork as seen in such iconic works as the *Mona Lisa* and *The Last Supper*. The intertwining knot Leonardo invents tells the story of a hidden message unlocked by Cocciardi and revealed in the *Mona Lisa's* embroidery pattern

## White House Memories

**Tuesday, May 25**  
**2:15-3:40pm**

Alan DeValerio worked at the White House from 1980 to 1990.

This presentation describes the instructor's experiences working at the White House as a butler for ten years. Besides his own experiences and a look behind the scenes of a State Dinner, he relates stories from the people that he worked with, such as Eugene Allen, the subject of the movie *The Butler*.

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