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- [Catalog Info](#)
- [OLLI Videos](#)
- [Suggestion Box](#)
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ALERTS

- > **NEW MEMBER COFFEE.** 10:30 Fri, Mar 28, in the Tallwood annex. For ALL members. Meet your colleagues and members of the Board of Directors, enjoy refreshments.
- > **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING.** 11:30 Fri, Mar 28, in TA-1, after the New Member Coffee. Stick around to see what a board meeting is all about. All OLLI members welcome.
- > **SINGLES GROUP:** meets at noon, Fri, Mar 28, in the Tallwood annex for its first event--a Cherry Blossom Walk. Everyone is invited. The group will be carpooling to the Springfield Metro station, then going downtown on the Metro.
- > **DEATH NOTICE:** Retired Mason Prof. Robert Hawkes. [OLLI E-News article](#); [Post obituary](#).

REMINDERS

- > **SPRING TERM:** Starts Mon, Mar 24. (Loudoun classes start two weeks later: Mon, Apr 7.)
- > **COURSES STILL OPEN.** You can sign up for courses that are not closed. See [this article](#).
- > **EYE ON RESTON COURSE:** #903, "Your County/Your Home," remains open. [More info](#).
- > **LITERATURE, LANGUAGE & THEATER** Resource Group meets 1:00 Wed, Mar 26, TA-2. All OLLI members are invited to participate in planning for future terms.
- > **CENTER FOR GLOBAL EDUCATION:** [special presentation](#), 1:00-1:45, Wed, Mar 26, TA-1.

SPRING TERM ARTICLES AND NOTICES

- > [WELCOME TO THE SPRING TERM.](#) From the president. *By Pat Carroll*
- > [THE OLLI BALANCING ACT.](#) From the executive director. *By Thom Clement*
- > [OLLI BLOOMS IN THE SPRING.](#) Greet our new members. *By Elizabeth Crawford*
- > [OLLI AUDIO/VISUAL UPGRADES.](#) What's new in classrooms. *By Paul Howard*
- > [NEW EXHIBIT IN ANNEX.](#) Poems by OLLI Poetry Workshop members. *By Marvin Munch*
- > [CLASS CHANGES.](#) Instructor switches in #704; cancellation of #603.

OTHER ARTICLES AND NOTICES

- > [SOUNDING OUT ABOUT YOUR SILENT AUCTION.](#) Preparing for this first for OLLI. *By Debbie Halverson*
- > [YES, YOU CAN PLAY THE RECORDER.](#) Looking for more players. *By Jayne Hart*
- > [OLLI MILITARY OUTREACH UPDATE.](#) Help assemble boxes on Apr 2. *By Helen Goff*
- > [ROOTING FOR THE HOME TEAM.](#) It's a small world after all. *By Elizabeth Crawford*
- > [RESTON ELECTRONICS EXPO FOR SENIORS.](#) Learn how to deal with new electronics.

DEPARTMENTS

- > [CENTER FOR THE ARTS.](#) Arts and music events. *By Jan Bohall*
- > [MASON HIGHLIGHTS.](#) Other Mason events. *By Barbara Kyriakakis*
- > [COMING ATTRACTIONS.](#) Non-class events at OLLI for the next two weeks.

WELCOME TO THE SPRING TERM

From the president



By Pat Carroll, President

I WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME EVERYONE back to another fabulous term at OLLI at Mason. The catalog and curriculum seem to get better every term. I am already hearing great comments about this catalog. The Program Committee, chaired by Kathryn Russell, and the Resource Groups continue to spend a vast amount of time and energy to keep bringing new and exciting courses and events to the membership. The Board and Committee Chairs continue to look for volunteers in all facets of the organization. However, the Program Committee is always in need of help in order to maintain and grow the

curriculum. The Loudoun Program Committee is expanding its membership and variety of courses under the leadership of Ray Beery and Madeline Lynn; the committee is now composed entirely of Loudoun members.

The National Conference of OLLIs is being held in Phoenix, Arizona, on Apr 2-4 this year. Executive Director Thom Clement and I will be attending, representing OLLI at Mason. We will give an update of the results of the conference at the next Board meeting after we return and in *OLLI E-News*.

The New Member Coffee for this term will be held in the Tallwood annex on Fri, Mar 28, at 10:30 followed by the monthly Board meeting at 11:30. At the Board meeting, the Nominating Committee will be announcing the slate of candidates for the election of new Board members to be held in May.

The annual Teacher Appreciation Reception will be held on Thu, Apr 10, at George Mason. The focus of the reception is two-fold. One is to thank the George Mason professors who graciously give of their time to teach classes and the OLLI members who develop, teach and support our great variety of learning experiences. The second is to present the scholarships that are given annually from the generosity of OLLI members donating to the Friends of OLLI.

I hope all members will have another great term and think about how each of us can continue to volunteer our time and resources to make an even better OLLI.

[Back to top](#)

THE OLLI BALANCING ACT

From the executive director



By [Thom Clement](#), Executive Director

WELCOME BACK TO THE WONDERFUL WORLD of OLLI at Mason! The spring 2008 term looks as if it could be one of the best ever!

I've been hearing lots of discussions in our resource groups about a topic that I loosely call the "balancing act" in OLLI programming. The basic issue is the extent to which we allow presentations by speakers or instructors who represent a particular product, service, or point of view. At first glance, the issue seems black and white: it is our longstanding de facto policy and practice that we don't allow anyone to sell a particular product or promote a single point of view in our classes. Nevertheless, there are several shades of gray. Many of our speakers from the realm of government come with particular ideological beliefs that weave themselves into presentations on history and current events. Several instructors in the finance and economics courses have biases toward particular types of investment or insurance vehicles. Guests who are authors

will often refer to books they have available for purchase. In the emerging field of "brain fitness," some of the available presentations are characterized by impressive descriptions of scientific research but are accompanied by references to particular materials or equipment that are for sale.

Over the 17 years of successful growth at our OLLI, we have done a great job of maintaining the balance between our desire to offer stimulating presentations from highly qualified instructors and the likelihood that some of these instructors will occasionally, either inadvertently or by design, share their personal biases or describe the product or service offered by their company. We need to remain vigilant in guarding this balanced approach.

[Back to top](#)

OLLI BLOOMS IN THE SPRING

Greet our new members



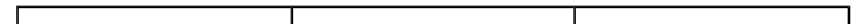
By Elizabeth Crawford, *OLLI E-News* Staff Writer



OLLIwood gardens, Mar 19; photos by Gordon Canyock

AS WE BEGIN THE SPRING 2008 TERM AT OLLI, the gardens at Tallwood delight our senses while anticipation of challenging courses satisfies our minds. Recently formed social groups invite us to greater fellowship. Let us recognize our red-dotted new members when we meet them in class and be sure to invite them to participate in our many OLLI extra-curricular activities, including a few exciting new groups--Singles, Walkers/Hikers, Gourmet Cooking, Happy Hour.

Welcome to...



Carla Abernathy Mary Jane Billinger Robert Blackwell Sally Burdick Frank Burke Judy Cabitt Anny De Boeck Nancy Diesel Josephine Domingues	Melissa FitzGerald Linda Gersten Joanne Harney Pat Hill Nancy Hollernan Alan Hundt Jan Koscielniak Bob Lindley John Metzler	Ernestine Meyer Nancy Palmer William Reader Susan Schmitt Bernard Singer Eileen Smith Diane Wagner Carol Ward George & Patricia Younts Bobbie Zickel
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OLLI AUDIOVISUAL UPGRADES

What's new in classrooms



By Paul Howard, Audiovisual Support Committee Chair

THE SPRING TERM IS ABOUT TO KICK OFF. The Audiovisual Support Committee, also known as the Tom Swift Squad, has been working with OLLI's A/V contractor to improve our instructional support infrastructure.

A stereo amplifier system was installed with loudspeakers in TA-2 for high-quality sound sources such as CDs, DVDs, VHS tapes and laptops, bringing the equipment in this classroom to the same standard as in TA-1 and TA-3. Also, additional "sound reinforcement/PA microphone system" speakers were added in the rear of TA-2 to allow students to clearly hear the instructor above any noise of the heating/air conditioning system.

Audio input cables have been added in the front of each classroom for use with sound sources such as laptop computers, iPods and MP3/CD players. These sources can now play over each room's stereo sound system.

A hard-wired "introducer's microphone" with an on-off switch will be available in each classroom for liaisons and course coordinators to use at the beginning of each class. Bob Lawshe fabricated three cable holders/mic-stand bases for use with the new microphones.

Another addition to OLLI's electronic line-up: wireless presentation remotes to control laptops (e.g., to advance PowerPoint slides and perform mouse functions). These devices include an integrated laser pointer and were suggested by Dick Hart and Rod Zumbro.

A hard-wired Internet connection is now available in the front of TA-1 and TA-3. Similar Internet connections for TA-2, Thom Clement's office and other

parts of the campus will be installed later in the term.

Members of the Tom Swift Squad are Michael Coyne, Don Ferret, Bob Helland, Paul Howard, Jim Miller, Manny Pablo, Stan Schretter, and John West. Additional volunteer members are welcome and needed, particularly from Reston. As a reminder, only members of OLLI staff, or the Tom Swift Squad, are trained and permitted to adjust the classroom A/V systems.

NEW EXHIBIT IN ANNEX

Poems by OLLI Poetry Workshop members



By Marvina Munch, Exhibits Coordinator



Exhibit photo by Gordon Canyock

MEMBERS OF OLLI'S POETRY WORKSHOP display a collection of their poems that give us access to their experiences, humor, imaginations and emotions. Each poem is unique in reflecting the individuality of its author and the versatility of the medium. Take your time with this exhibit. It is worthy.

CLASS CHANGES

#704, LAW ENFORCEMENT SYMPOSIUM

Due to a major protective assignment in mid-April, the Secret Service presentation and the U.S. Marshals Service presentation have switched dates.

On Tue, Apr 1, Assistant to the Special Agent in Charge Julie Ferrell, Northern Virginia Investigative Team of the Washington Field Office of the U.S. Secret Service, will present the previously scheduled Apr 15 class on modern day counterfeiting, identity theft and protection-related manpower problems.

Chief Inspector Michael Rose of the U.S. Marshals Service will be switching his presentation to Tue, Apr 15.

#606, THE QUESTION OF GOD

This course has been canceled due to health problems of the instructor. The course is planned now for the fall term.

SOUNDING OUT ABOUT YOUR *SILENT AUCTION*

Preparing for this first for OLLI



By Debbie Halverson, Membership Committee Chair
WE'RE GOING TO BE LOUD AND CLEAR ON THIS: preparations for the first OLLI Silent Auction, scheduled for May 2, begin now!

We're inviting each of our members to think about what they might put forward for the bidding, and the options are many. Everyone can have fun putting their imaginations to work generating ideas. I've already considered several of my own:

- I could contribute a collection of watercolor how-to books I have never cracked.
- I could offer to drive someone's home-bound friend to Occoquan for a day of lunch and shopping.
- I could, as a beader, create several beautiful necklaces.
- I could make a gift basket of baby items for someone to give at a baby shower.
- I could forgo two tickets to a play that are part of a subscription package I've already paid for.

We have set up five categories of donations. Once you have decided on what you would donate, please contact the members who are tracking pledges in their category. They will keep track of the developing list to know what will be available on May 2 when the official auction occurs. The categories, suggestions and contacts are as follows:

1. **Items of value:** sports equipment, power tools, jewelry, etc in good condition; no yard sale type items, no electronic equipment, and no furniture. Mona Smith and Bob Dorosin.
2. **Works of art, photography, and crafts:** matted artwork, quilting pieces, needlework, etc. Jan Bohall (jbohall@verizon.net) and Elizabeth Crawford.
3. **Themed baskets:** weddings, baby showers, items for Mother, graduations. Martha Scanlon and Doris Weisman.
4. **Offers for services:** two hours of garden help, computer help, performance at a special event, etc. Carolyn Sanders and Ceda McGrew.
5. **Miscellaneous:** tickets to performances, dinner for two at..., a morning at

the beauty spa. Carole Richard and Joyce Dorosin.

Doris Bloch and I will be keeping a master list, and Joan Smith will be the contact for Reston donations. These contacts will be standing by waiting for your emails; don't be surprised, however, if they should approach you with suggestions if they happen to know of your particular talents or knowledge.

Future articles will address IRS issues related to charitable donations, how to price your item, how a silent auction works, and, before long, a list of pledges already received. Check the bulletin boards in the Tallwood social room and at Lake Anne for ongoing news about the events of May 2. The yellow-fellow logo will keep you informed.

YES, YOU CAN PLAY THE RECORDER

Looking for more players



By Jayne Hart, Recorder Ensemble member



Executive Director Thom Clement playing the alto recorder, with (left to right in background) Louise McLean and Karen Holmfeld on soprano recorders. Photo by Jayne Hart.

OLLI'S RECORDER ENSEMBLE IS LOOKING FOR MORE PLAYERS.

Here's how our executive director got started. One of the first Fridays that Thom was in his office (right next to the room in which the Recorder Ensemble practices), he came over to see from whence the "beautiful music" was originating. Before he left, we had convinced him to take home an alto recorder and two "learn how to play" books. In just a few short weeks, all on his own, he picked up enough technique to actually play a piece with the Ensemble. We are looking forward to his expanding his repertoire so that he can become a regular member of the Ensemble.

The Recorder Ensemble practices Friday mornings from 10-11:30 in TA-2.

Some of our current Ensemble members (Robert McLean and me) would be very happy to help potential new players learn the fundamentals of playing, so lack of experience is no obstacle to getting started. All that is needed is a recorder. (We are hoping to offer another beginning recorder class at OLLI in the fall session.)

[Back to top](#)

OLLI MILITARY OUTREACH UPDATE

Help assemble boxes on Apr 2



By Helen Goff, OLLI Military Outreach Coordinator

MASON MILITARY OUTREACH will assemble boxes of items donated to be sent to our warfighting troops on Wed, Apr 2, at Mason Hall, Room D5 at noon. OLLI members are welcome to participate.

A big THANK YOU to all who are helping with this very worthwhile effort. OLLI members have donated two large boxes and a shopping bag full of items to be sent to our warfighters. OLLI members have also donated a total of \$181 that will be used to pay for the mailing of the items collected to the troops. Donations made by check will be acknowledged by the George Mason University Foundation. Please continue to make checks payable to "GMU Foundation" and put "MMO" in the memo entry. Please allow a couple of weeks after the check has been cashed to receive acknowledgment. If the check is not acknowledged in a reasonable time, please contact me, and I will follow-up.

If you have a family member or friend that is servicing in the war zone and would like to have that person added to the listing of persons receiving a box of goodies, please let me know.

[Back to top](#)

ROOTING FOR THE HOME TEAM

It's a small world after all



By Elizabeth Crawford, OLLI E-News Staff Writer



"Two dogs and a smile: It's a good life"

"Bob Bohall, on vacation from Fairfax, Va., happily returns to his seat with two hot dogs as the Washington

Nationals play the Florida Marlins on Friday afternoon at Space Coast Stadium in Viera."

JUST LAST WEEK OLLI E-NEWS REPORTED that former OLLI President and current History and Current Events Resource Group Co-Chair Bob Bohall works hard. Now it has come to light, thanks to alert reader/OLLI member Luci Martel, that Bob also plays hard.

The great photo above by Rik Jesse, *Florida Today*, with the quoted captions appeared in the Mar 1 edition of that newspaper. Bob and Jan Bohall attended the Feb 29 Washington Nationals opening game while vacationing in Florida. Bob knew that he and his "dogs" had been photographed, but he and Jan moved on in their travels and didn't see the newspaper when it was published. Fortunately, Luci Martel was also visiting that area of Florida, saw the photo on March 1st, and mailed a copy to Bob.

The moral of the story: *It's a small world after all, or OLLI members do nice things for one another, such as taking the time to send an article to a friend who might otherwise have missed it.*

HOW TO EXPRESS YOUR VIEWS ABOUT OLLI
Questions/Comments/Suggestions

PUBLICLY:

Email your "Letter to the Editor" (see [recent sample](#)) or "Letter to Ms. Ollie Ettakit" (see [recent sample](#)) to the [editor](#). **Anonymous submissions are acceptable if you provide contact information so we can verify that you are an OLLI member.** Whenever an official response to a letter to the editor is clearly appropriate, the editor will obtain and publish the OLLI response in the same issue so members will have more complete information and a balanced picture of the matter.

PRIVATELY:

- Contact any [Board member](#), [committee or resource group chair](#), or the [executive director](#);
- Send an email to the entire Board (email the [editor](#) or the [office](#) to have your message forwarded to all members of the Board);
- Submit a suggestion [online](#) or in the box in the Tallwood social room; or
- Contact the office by [email](#) or phone (703-503-3384).

ELECTRONICS EXPO FOR SENIORS



RESTON ASSOCIATION IS HOLDING an Electronics Expo for Seniors on Fri, Mar 28, from 1:00 to 3:00 at Tall Oaks at Reston, 12052 North Shore Drive (Google [map and directions](#)).

Find out how to use everyday gadgets like DVD players, Bluetooth technology, larger cell phones, etc. and make your life more tech-savvy. For information, call 703-435-6577.

CENTER FOR THE ARTS


Arts and music events at Mason, Mar 21-30



By Jan Bohall, OLLI E-News Staff Writer



FOR TICKETS, call 1-888-945-2468 (phone orders are handled by tickets.com) or visit the Center for the Arts Box Office, Tue-Sat, 10:00-6:00. More info on tickets at the [CFA tickets page](#).

<p>Faculty Artist Series Glenn Smith, composition recital <i>Dr. Smith is Director of Theory & Composition at Mason. He has written more than 500 pieces, including choral, chamber and orchestral works, as well as jazz and electronic music for concert, dance, video, film and television.</i> Fri, Mar 21, at 8:00 Admission: Free, no tickets required Harris Theater</p>	<p>Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company Chapel/Chapter <i>This Harlem-based is recognized as one of the most innovative and powerful forces in modern dance today. Choreographer and dancer Bill T. Jones combines video, text and autobiographical material with dance in large-scale, abstract presentations.</i> Sat, Mar 22, at 8:00 Admission: \$44, \$36, \$22 Concert Hall</p>	<p>GMU Dance Gala <i>The program features "Gloria" by Mark Morris, "Eight Jelly Rolls" by Twyla Tharp and "Reach" by Patrick Corbin.</i> Fri, Mar 28, and Sat, Mar 29, at 8:00 Admission: \$12 seniors/students, \$20 other adults Concert Hall</p>
<p>Thomas Brawley Memorial Chamber Concert Featuring GMU faculty <i>Professor Brawley will be honored in an annual recital of one of his most beloved musical genres—chamber music. He was a long-time faculty member at Mason who died in 2001.</i> Sun, Mar 30, at 3:00 Admission: Free, no tickets required Harris Theater</p>	 <p>See description at right >></p>	<p>Helsingborg Symphony Orchestra The Eroica Effect Andrew Manze, conductor <i>The program will open with Mozart's Overture to "The Magic Flute." Manze will describe a brief history of Beethoven's "Eroica," with musical excerpts, and the orchestra will then perform the symphony in its entirety.</i> Sun, Mar 30, at 7:00 Admission: \$50, \$42, \$25 Concert Hall Come early at 6:15 for a</p>

free artistic discussion in the Grand Tier Lobby.

MASON HIGHLIGHTS

Other Mason events



By Barbara Kyriakakis, OLLI E-News Staff Writer

- **College of Science's Computational Materials Science Center** – "The Digital Life" of the Physical Universe, presented by Simon Berkovich, George Washington University, Mon, Mar 24, 4:30, 301 Research I.
- **12th Annual Health & Fitness Expo** – Community and on-campus exhibitors provide health information on nutrition, exercise, stress management, alternative therapies, and healthy self-care practices. Featured are interactive health education activities, participatory demonstrations, health screenings, fitness instruction and physical challenges. Cheer on teams in the Mason Top Chef cook-off, take a short power walk with three-time Olympian power walker Debbi Spino, adopt a pet from the Washington Humane Society, or give blood. Johnson Center, Dewberry Hall, 12:00 to 6:00 on Wed, Mar, 26 and 10:00 to 4:00 on Thu, Mar 27.
- **AVT Exhibition** – Clarita Herce, Fine Arts Gallery, Tue, Apr 1 through Tue, Apr 15; Reception: Wed, Apr 2, 6:00 to 8:00.
- **English Department's Spring Speaker Series** – Nell Freudenberger, Mon, Apr 2, Grand Tier III, Concert Hall, 7:30.
- **Recreational Sports NY Bus Trip** (link is Microsoft Word document) – Bus leaves the Field House at 6:30 on Sat, Apr 26, and returns same day around midnight; \$35.00. Last day to register is Mon, Apr 14.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Non-class events at OLLI for the next two weeks

The following list covering the next two weeks is extracted for your convenience from the master calendar maintained by the office (see the [Forecast of Non-Class Events](#) for more details, including active links to more information on certain events, and to view the actual OLLI online calendar used by the office). *Note: Board, committee, resource-group and 'membership-type' meetings/events below are **highlighted in bold**. OLLI members are welcome at*

all Board, committee and resource-group meetings (except during executive sessions).

Friday Mar 21 10am Italian Club - Annex
 10am Recorder Group - TA-2
Monday Mar 24 SPRING TERM Begins
 1pm Lake Anne Bridge Club
Wednesday Mar 26 1pm Literature, Language, Theater Resource Group Mtg - TA-2
 1:30pm Bridge Club - TA-3
 2pm 951 Spec Event-Shuffle Now - TA-1
 Friday Mar 28 9:30am Drama Club - TA-3
 9:30am Photography Club - TA-1
 10am Recorder Group - TA-2
 10am Italian Club - Annex
10:30am New Member Coffee - Annex
11:30am Board of Directors Mtg - TA-1
 1pm 952-Spec Event-Witchcraft - TA-1
 1:30pm Homer, Etc. Book Club - TA-Annex
 Monday Mar 31 9am Loudoun Walk-in Registration, 9-12 - Sterling
 1pm Lake Anne Bridge Club
 Tuesday Apr 1 11am Loudoun Open House - Sterling
Wednesday Apr 2 10am Spec Events Res Grp Mtg - TA-2
 1:30pm Bridge Club - TA-3
 2pm History Club - TA-1
 Thursday Apr 3 11am Fiction Writers Club - Kings Park Library
 Friday Apr 4 9am 953-Spec Event- Freer Gallery - Bus Trip - Fair Oaks
 9:30am Drama Club - TA-3
9:30am Planning Comm Mtg - TA-1
 10am Italian Club - TA-Annex
 10am Recorder Group - TA-2
 1:30pm Homer, Etc. Book Club - TA-Annex
 Monday Apr 7 Loudoun SPRING TERM Begins



Rod Zumbro
 Editor

About OLLI E-News. *OLLI E-News*, OLLI's weekly newsletter, is emailed to OLLI members with email addresses on Fridays. When classes are in session, printed copies of this newsletter are distributed in classrooms, primarily for members without email. Comments, suggestions or complaints? Please contact Editor [Rod Zumbro](#) or Communications Committee Chair [Gordon](#)

OLLI E-News Editorial Staff

Reviewer and Backup



Karen Hamilton
 Deputy Editor

[Canyock.](#)

Submissions. We encourage members to submit news items, articles and photos for this newsletter; deadline to the editor is 7:00 PM Wed (Mon for letters to the editor for which an OLLI response is appropriate) for that week's issue. Please limit articles to about 250 words. Submit material to Editor Rod Zumbro (email rzumbro@gmu.edu, phone 703-569-2750); email strongly preferred.

Read the Latest Issue Before Email Distribution. Eager to read the latest news from OLLI? The new weekly issue of *OLLI E-News* is usually posted to the OLLI Website some time Thursday evening. So Thursday night or first thing Friday morning, just go to <http://www.ollie.gmu.edu/pubs.htm#enews>, where you will find a list of the last 12 issues, and click the issue with Friday's date.

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Editor
 John West

Database Manager
 Barbara Kyriakakis

Photo Editor
 Michael Coyne