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REPORT FROM PHOENIX, PART I

From the executive director



By [Thom Clement](#), Executive Director

THE 2008 NATIONAL OLLI CONFERENCE WAS HELD APRIL 2-4 outside of Phoenix, Arizona. The Osher Foundation provided funding for travel and registration for two persons from each of the 119 institutes that are part of the network that receives funding and resources from the Bernard Osher Foundation. Our president, Pat Carroll, and I represented OLLI at Mason.

Being a relative newcomer to the lifelong learning scene, I had heard that our particular institute was one of the best, and that perception was reinforced as we interacted with dozens of representatives from other OLLI's. However, we learned a lot from the presentations as well as from the informal networking opportunities.

I made two distinct observations:

1. Members of all of the institutes are bound by a passion for opportunities to be actively engaged in learning and social interactions, and
2. There is tremendous variation among the institutes in the following categories:
 - How "membership" is defined
 - The fees and payment options used
 - The number and duration of terms each year
 - The number of classes and activities provided during each term
 - The quality of the overall program (i.e., speakers and instructors, curriculum)
 - Payment (or other remuneration) of instructors and speakers
 - The types of facilities in which classes and activities are held
 - The relationship with the host university

In coming weeks, I will elaborate on each of these categories in my articles for *OLLI E-News*.

I hope that you can attend one of the "Meet the Candidates" forums: Apr 29 in Reston and May 2 at Tallwood (Annual Membership Meeting). I also hope to see you at our Silent Auction and cookout/picnic at Tallwood on May 2!

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HAVE YOU NOTICED THE BOARD CANDIDATES DISPLAY?

Meet your Board candidates



Shown in random order. To see larger photos and read candidate biographies, click the [candidates page](#) on our Web site.

POSTERS WITH PHOTOS AND BRIEF BIOGRAPHIES of faces that are becoming familiar are on display at the Reston and Tallwood sites. Meet the candidates in person on Tue, Apr 29, 1:00 - 2:00 at the Lake Anne Church and on Fri, May 2, at the Annual Membership Meeting at Tallwood, 10:00. You may also review their statements on the [candidates page](#) on our Web site at any time during this election season.

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THE SILENT AUCTION AND FRIENDS OF OLLI

The purpose of the auction



By Bob Lawshe, Board member



THE FIRST EVER OLLI SILENT AUCTION, WHOSE PURPOSE IS to benefit Friends of OLLI, is drawing ever closer, and member donation offerings are coming in. Two recent events highlight the importance of Friends of OLLI to the OLLI membership.

- Last week OLLI awarded four scholarships to deserving Mason students in such diverse disciplines as Music, Philosophy, Economics, and Environmental Science. These scholarships are one of the major ways we are able to demonstrate our appreciation for all Mason does for us and to thank those University departments that take time to support us in the classroom. At the same time we get to help some truly deserving and wonderful undergraduate and graduate students pursue their educational dreams.

- Recently, the Board took a deep breath and voted to support an ambitious upgrade of our aging audiovisual systems. Most members are bound to appreciate the audiovisual upgrade because it will further enhance the OLLI classroom learning experience.

The scholarships and audiovisual upgrade are funded entirely from Friends of OLLI funds, and these funds come from our members. We hope everyone will take time to make a donation, or several, to the Silent Auction and then come out on May 2 to bid on some wonderful items. It's a great way to make a real contribution to OLLI and Mason AND get something really nifty in the process.

Thank you for your support of this important effort.

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EYE ON RESTON

OLLI Reston needs your help!

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SEEING OLLI RESTON GROW? Are you willing to help your fellow OLLI Reston members? We all value our OLLI membership, so let's pass the word. Talk to your friends and neighbors about what OLLI has to offer. We have an 18-month objective of a net gain of 60 new members from the Reston area. Nothing is more effective than word of mouth, so let's spread the news.

OLLI Reston also needs volunteer help! Volunteers are needed in the following areas:

- Resource groups,
- Course development,
- Membership, and
- Facility improvement.

If you have ideas and want to become involved or are just a hard worker interested in seeing OLLI Reston prosper then call Debbie Halverson, Sheila Gold or Al Roe – and thanks for your help!

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SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

A photo display

AT LAST THURSDAY'S TEACHER APPRECIATION RECEPTION, OLLI awarded scholarships to four Mason students. Funding for these scholarships comes from our members via their donations to the Friends of OLLI.



Pianist Min Son receiving Abe Spero Scholarship from Dr. James Gardner, Chair of the Music Dept., and Dr. Linda Monson, Assistant Chair

Kevin Hilferty receiving Shirley Fox Scholarship from Dr. Donald Boudreaux, Chair of the Dept. of Economics

Allia Borowski receiving Kathryn Brooks Scholarship from Dr. Debra Bergoffen, Graduate Coordinator, Dept. of Philosophy

Haiying Lin receiving OLLI Directors' Discretionary Award from Dr. R. Chris Jones, Chair of Environmental Science and Policy

2008 OLLI scholarship winners (details below).
Photos by Kathie West; collage by the editor.

Min Son (pianist, also played during the reception) Undergraduate, working towards B.A. in Music	Kevin Hilferty Undergraduate student, working towards degree in Economics	Allia Borowski Graduate student working towards M.A. in Philosophy	Haiying Lin Graduate student working on Ph.D. in Environmental Science and Policy
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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;
- Contact the office by [email](#) or phone (703-503-3384).

ANNEX EXHIBIT

A new collection of poems



By Marvinna Munch, Exhibits Coordinator

DURING THE SECOND HALF of the spring term and National Poetry Month, OLLI's poets exhibit a new collection of poems for our enjoyment. Whether humorous or serious, each poem is a gem.

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OLLI Haiku
By Bettyann Fridinger, Loudoun Campus

Time for OLLI Class
 Coffee, cookies, much to learn
 Wonderful new friends

CLASS CHANGES

Course #702, "America and the World"

CHANGES IN THE PLANNED SCHEDULE for course #702, "America and the World," are provided by Coordinator Carlyn Elder as follows.

- Apr 28: "Cooking Intelligence for War," Raymond McGovern, Central Intelligence Agency
- May 5: "International Security," Karin Von Hippel, Center for Strategic and International Studies

- May 12: "Fiscal Wake-Up Tour," Josh Gordon, senior policy analyst at The Concord Coalition

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WALKING/HIKING GROUP ENJOYS ITS FIRST SPRINGTIME OUTINGS

Eakin Glen Trail and Bull Run Regional Park



By Doris Bloch, Walking/Hiking Group Co-Coordinator



The Walking/Hiking Group among the bluebells. Photo by Shelly Gersten.

THE WALKING/HIKING GROUP IS FINALLY OFF THE GROUND. Two outings were held last week, the first to Eakin Glen Trail, part of the Fairfax County Connector Trail, on Fri, Apr 11. The group met at the trailhead on Fairfax Boulevard (Rt. 50) and took a six-mile round-trip hike followed by a rehydration Happy Hour stop at P.J. Skiddoos. This part of the trail parallels Accotink Creek for a large portion of the hike and is paved and level for the most part.

The second event was a Sunday morning visit to Bull Run Regional Park, Centreville, to view the Virginia Bluebells. We were lucky enough to encounter the bluebells in the full blooming stage, and the entire woodland ground was blue. Our weather was a bit cool and damp, but the sight of the spring flowers was certainly enough to make the trip worthwhile. Fifteen of us tramped along the Bluebell Trail, much of which borders Cub Run, for its 1.5 miles and enjoyed a picnic lunch together in one of the park pavilions.

The next planned weekend outing of the Walking/Hiking Group will be to the National Arboretum on Sat, May 10, to view the famous azalea plantings and, of course, to visit other parts of the Arboretum. More details on this hike will follow but reserve the date on your calendar if interested. (Don't forget to bring a camera.)

Note that group members also gather and walk weekly in the areas near Tallwood for 30 - 45 minutes before classes on Tuesdays at 8:30 (returning by 9:15) and on Wednesdays between classes/special events at 1:15 (returning by 1:50). This schedule will be in effect until the end of spring term. Feel free to "shake a leg" and join us - no prerequisites, no homework, and no grades ever handed out.

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OLLI MILITARY OUTREACH

An update



By Helen Goff, OLLI Liaison to Mason Military Outreach

Committee

ON APR 2, MASON MILITARY OUTREACH assembled 56 boxes of items that were donated by George Mason University (including OLLI) at Mason Hall.

Thank-you notes have already started to arrive. Here is an example:

I just wanted to let you know that my dad received the care packages you sent him and he sent a BIG thank you! He said the items you chose were more than perfect, and if you ever do it again that it was a great box and everything will be very useful and is more than appreciated. He made sure to set everything out for all the guys to have their pick at stuff they wanted/needed. So thanks again, you definitely made his day. :)

-- Lindsay

Doesn't this just make your day? I know it did mine!

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OLLI'S SPECIAL FORCES

*A profile of Rosemary McDonald,
Art/Music Resource Group Chair*



By Elizabeth Crawford, OLLI E-News Staff Writer

IN ADDITION TO THANKING Gloria Sussman for "The Ongoing Pleasures of Music," we must thank her for introducing Rosemary McDonald (*photo at right*) to OLLI. When Gloria started teaching at OLLI in 2000, she relied on Rosemary as her driver and assistant. Subsequently, Rosemary joined OLLI and became an active Reston member.



Rosemary is a former Fairfax County Public Schools curriculum specialist in elementary language arts. She was a major author of the FCPS Integrated Language Arts Guide and led the effort to implement the program in every school in the county. In addition, she spearheaded a teacher research project whereby teachers conducted their own research and shared and published their findings.

Rosemary was elected to the Board in the spring of 2007. Her goal is to use her ability to organize curriculum and people to enrich the OLLI course offerings. Evidence of this talent has been her coordination of well-received courses on China, Indonesia, India, and Pakistan. New to the job of Art/Music Resource Group Chair, Rosemary is relying on members to share their ideas and contacts in the art and music worlds.

This job fits in well with one of Rosemary's great loves--piano. She continues to take lessons and plays piano with a group. In what is left of her spare time, she enjoys travel, bridge, and golf.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

*A forum for members to voice their views on OLLI matters
WE WILL PUBLISH your brief letters about OLLI and, if a response seems*

appropriate, we will include an OLLI response from the executive director or the applicable officer or committee chair in the same issue. Submit your letter via [email to the editor](#) or submit it as a "letter to the editor" via the [online suggestion box](#) or the suggestion box in the Tallwood Social Room. To be published in a given Friday's issue, the editor must receive the letter no later than 7:00 pm on Monday so that any applicable OLLI response can also be published. Letters can be published anonymously but you must include your name and email address or phone number so we can verify that you are an OLLI member.

Concern about classroom temperature

I read with interest the "falling out" of one of our instructors attributed by witnesses to overheating in TA-1. We all must agree that the classrooms all are overheated in the transitional seasons of spring and autumn. I have personally felt ill in TA-1 and more often very sleepy due to the heat which must exceed 80 degrees F.

I suggest we bite the bullet and turn on the air conditioners when the rooms get so warm. At the very least, the liaison should insist that the door be left open in spite of possible deterioration of the PowerPoint presentations. Just a thought.

-- Nick Cirillo, OLLI member

Response from Executive Director Thom Clement--

The OLLI staff will work with class liaisons to monitor temperatures in classrooms and take appropriate actions. As noted in last week's OLLI E-News [article](#), there were other factors involved with the speaker who collapsed in TA-1 on Apr 9.

CENTER FOR THE ARTS

*Arts and music events at Mason,
Apr 18-27*



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>GMU Dance Company Spring Concert Fri, Sat, Apr 18, 19, at 8:00 Admission: \$10 seniors/students, \$15 other adults Harris Theater</p>	<p>Virginia Opera <u>Lucia di Lammermoor</u> Donizetti based this, said to be one of his most passionate operas, on Sir Walter Scott's novel, <i>The Bride of Lammermoor</i>. Two noble Scots families have feuded for many years and have sworn to exterminate each other. The <i>bel canto</i> masterpiece contains two of opera's most famous scenes, Lucia's Mad Scene and the Sextet. The exciting new soprano, Manon Strauss Evrard, returns to sing the title role. The Sunday afternoon performance is an OLLI Special Event. Fri, Apr 18, at 8:00 Sun, Apr 20, at 2:00 Admission: Fri, \$86, \$72, \$44 Sun, \$94, \$78, \$48 Cheese Tasting: Fri, Apr 18, at 6:30 in the Concert Hall Lobby Pre-performance artistic discussion at 7:15 on Fri and at 1:15 on Sun, in the Grand Tier III Lobby. Concert Hall</p>	<p>GMU Chamber Ensembles Sun, Apr 20, at 3:00 Admission: Free, no tickets required Harris Theater</p> <hr/> <p>Faculty Artist Series Music Department Anna Balakerskaia and Friends Sun, Apr 20, at 7:00 Admission: Free, no tickets required Harris Theater</p> <hr/> <p>GMU University Chorale Tue, Apr 22, at 8:00 Admission: Free, no tickets required Harris Theater</p> <hr/> <p>GMU Chamber Ensembles Wed, Apr 23, at 8:00 Admission: Free, no tickets required Harris Theater</p>
<p>Fairfax Symphony Orchestra Masterworks 5 William Hudson, conductor</p>	<p>GMU Players #3 Measure for Measure by William Shakespeare</p>	

<p>Maestro Hudson conducts two popular symphonic renditions, one of Tchaikovsky's <i>Romeo and Juliet Overture-Fantasy</i>, and one of excerpts from Prokofiev's <i>Romeo and Juliet Suites 1 and 2</i>. He concludes with Beethoven's <i>Symphony No. 5</i>. Sat, Apr 26, at 8:00 Admission: \$55, \$45, \$35, \$25 Concert Hall Come early for a free, pre-concert lecture at 7:00.</p>	<p>Directed by Rick Davis, artistic director of the CFA/Theater of the First Amendment, this play brings Shakespeare's most sustained investigation of the role of law and justice applied to a wide variety of human circumstances. Stay for a post-performance discussion with the director and members of the Players. The Saturday afternoon performance is an OLLI Special Event. Thu, Fri, Sat, Apr 24-26, at 8:00 Sat, Apr 26, at 2:00 Thu, Fri, Sat, May 1-3, at 8:00 Sat, Sun, May 3-4, at 2:00 Admission: \$8 seniors/students, \$12 other adults Theater Space (<i>From Level 2 of Parking Deck take the bridge, enter the first door on the left and follow hallway through the gray doors and down stairs.</i>)</p>
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MASON HIGHLIGHTS

Other Mason events



By Barbara Kyriakakis, OLLI E-News Staff Writer

- **Über Student Film Festival** – Sat, Apr 19, 6:00 and 9:00. JC Cinema. \$1.00 with ID.
- **Faculty Recital** – Jesse Guessford, composition. Free. Sun, Apr 20, 8:00, JC Cinema.
- **Botanical Tours of Fairfax Campus** - Join Environmental Science and Policy [Professor Andrea Weeks](#) for a botanical walking tour. Meet at 12:05 in 15 Krug Hall for a 45-50 minute walk around campus. Tours limited to 20 people, so arrive early! Mon, Apr 21 and Tue, Apr 22.
- **Vision Speaker Series** – "The Dawn of the Age of Personalized Therapy: Proteomic Technologies and Strategies for Implementation,"

presented by Emanuel Petricoin and Lance Liotta, Co-Directors, Applied Proteomics and Molecular Medicine. Free but [tickets required](#). Mon, Apr 21, 8:00 in the Concert Hall.

- **Sustainability Film Festival** - Featuring *Radiant City, Kilowatt Ours, Fighting Goliath: The Texas Energy Wars* and *Mountaintop Mining* with Bill Moyer. These films will provide an opportunity to participate in facilitated discussions about energy and urban development issues. Tue, Apr 22, 10:00 to 3:00, JC Cinema.
- **Mason Life Spring Performance** – *The Lion and the Mouse* ([pdf flyer](#)), Tue, Apr 22, Sub II Ballroom; open to Mason community and general public from 2:00 to 3:00.
- **Climate Leadership at Mason** – Mason's Forum on Climate Change. Free. Wed, Apr, 23, 2:00 to 5:00, Sub II Ballroom.
- **Panel Presentation** – "The Plural West: Italy and the United States in the 21st Century," featuring Ambassador Paolo Janni and Ambassador Luigi V. Ferraris. Sponsored by Religious Studies, Modern and Classical Languages, and the Center for Global Education. Wed, Apr 23, 4:30, 163 Research I.

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 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 Apr 18 9:30am Drama Club - TA-3
 10am Italian Club - TA-Annex
 10am Recorder Group - TA-2
10am Board of Directors Meeting - TA-1
 1pm 957-Spec Event-Henriques on Washington - TA-1
 1:30pm Homer, Etc. Book Club - TA-Annex
 Sunday Apr 20 2pm 958-Spec Event *Lucia Di Lammermoor* - Mason Center for the Arts
 Monday Apr 21 1pm Lake Anne Bridge Club
 Wednesday Apr 23 1:30pm Bridge Club - TA-3
 2pm 959-Spec Event-Myers-Briggs - TA-1
Friday Apr 25 Ballots mailed for Board of Directors election
 9:30am Drama Club - TA-3

9:30am Photography Club - TA-1
 10am Italian Club - TA-Annex
 10am Recorder Group - TA-2
 12:30pm Loudoun Lunch Out - Vintage 50 Restaurant, Leesburg
 1pm 960-Spec Event-Lifelong Learning - TA-1
 1:30pm Homer, Etc. Book Club - TA-Annex
 Saturday Apr 26 2pm 961-Spec Event *Measure for Measure* - Mason TheaterSpace
 Monday Apr 28 1pm Lake Anne Bridge Club
Tuesday Apr 29 1pm Reston-Meet the Candidates - LA
 Wednesday Apr 30 1:30pm Bridge Club - TA-3
 2pm 962-Spec Event-Tenor in the Board Room - TA-1
 Thursday May 1 11am Fiction Writers Club - Kings Park Library
 Friday May 2 10am Italian Club - TA-Annex
10am Annual Town Meeting including candidate speeches - TA-1
11:30am Silent Auction - TA-3
11:30am OLLI Picnic - Tallwood Grounds
 1:30pm Homer, Etc. Book Club - TA-Annex



Rod Zumbro
Editor



Karen Hamilton
Deputy 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 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.

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