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OLLI E-News

The electronic newsletter for members of the
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at George Mason University



IN THIS ISSUE	Friday, Apr. 28, 2006	About this newsletter
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OLLI Website	What's New	Catalog Info	"OLLI Story" Movie	Suggestion Box	Contact Us
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ALERTS

- >> **CONCERT TONIGHT.** GMU Music Scholarship Concert 8:00, Fri, Apr 28, Center for Arts. Features OLLI scholarship winner [Jorge Martinez](#).
- >> **TRIP TALES.** An eighth class has been added to Trip Tales, course 903. At 9:30, Fri, May 19, OLLI member Chester Myslicki will present highlights of his post-Katrina Mardi Gras trip. May 5 will be on Antarctica; May 12 on a 21-port transatlantic cruise. All members are invited.
- >> **CLUBS** (Bridge, History) scheduled to meet Wed afternoon, May 3, have been canceled due to the OLLI annual meeting at 1:30 on that day.
- >> **DR. GRIDLOCK.** Mark your calendars: 1:00, Wed, May 24, for Dr. Gridlock at OLLI.

REMINDERS

- >> **ANNUAL MEETING** 1:30 Wed, May 3, TA-1. Meet the [candidates](#) for election to the Board then and also at Lake Anne on Fri, May 5, at 10:30. Y'all come, and don't forget to vote!
- >> **GMU OPERA**, *Marriage of Figaro*, 8:00 Fri & Sat, May 5 & 6, Harris Theater. [Details](#).
- >> **MASON** Theater of the First Amendment's [First Fridays](#) at Old Town Hall, 8:00 Fri, May 5.
- >> **FRIDAY PROGRAMMING.** The list of Friday programs is [here](#).

CORRECTION: Course 307, [A Window on Southeast Asia](#), is held on Wed, not Thu, at 11:30.

DEPARTMENTS

OLLI VIDEO NEWS: New video, "2006 OLLI Member Testimonials" -- Roxanne, Manny, Vera
CENTER FOR THE ARTS: Upcoming arts and music events at Mason. *By Jan Bohall*
COMING ATTRACTIONS: OLLI non-class events for next two weeks. *By Ann Hartmann*



<< **KEEPING OUR CATALOG FAT**
 Help OLLI maintain the excellence of its programs
By Elizabeth Crawford

>> **OLLI POETS SUCCEED**
 Mike McNamara and Barbara Achilles win awards in poetry contest



<< **OLLI COMMUNICATIONS**
 How to get your questions answered and to submit suggestions
By Rod Zumbro

>> **SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT**
 Pianist Jorge Martinez is the 2006 winner of OLLI's \$2,000 Abe Spero scholarship
By Kitty O'Hara



"I consider my hours with OLLI to be among the most pleasurable and meaningful that I spend in the classroom."

— Rick Davis
 Associate Dean, College of Visual and Performing Arts
 Artistic Director, Center for the Arts/Theater of the First Amendment
 George Mason University

OLLI E-News
 Keeping members informed

KEEPING OUR CATALOG FAT

Help OLLI maintain the excellence of its programs



By Elizabeth Crawford, Membership Committee member

LOOKING BACK ON A SUCCESSFUL WINTER 2006 TERM, it is easy to see how fortunate we were in our choice of courses. For the 54 courses offered, 19 instructors were drawn from Mason and our local community; the other 35 were taught or coordinated by our members.

Members teaching courses is not news, but the almost two-to-one ratio of member-taught courses may come as a surprise. Obviously, without members willing to teach and coordinate courses, our pickings would be rather slim. As grateful as we are to the longstanding members who now teach, **we need a steady**

stream of new people with new areas of expertise and contacts to keep our course offerings varied and exciting.



Without new members Jayne Hart and Bob Lawshe, we would not have had courses on "The Wisdom of the Body" and on "Epictetus." Without new member Kathie West, we would not have enjoyed that unforgettable holiday luncheon skit about Rudolph and his arthritic reindeer. Bob, Kathie, and new member Brenda Cheadle will be teaching during the spring semester, and Jayne will be returning to the podium soon. These are just a few examples of how new members enrich our organization.

So, chair Debbie Halverson and the Membership Committee would appreciate whatever extra effort you can put forth to help with their latest recruiting plan. If you are part of an alumni association with a Northern Virginia branch, perhaps you can send [Debbie](#) a contact name to put OLLI information into a newsletter or arrange for an OLLI presentation at a meeting. Names of fellow alumni would be helpful too. (Your name will not be mentioned in any solicitation without your permission.) Of course, any other suggestions for recruitment are always welcome.

There are smart people out there who would love to join OLLI and teach us some of what they know. They just need to know that we exist. **You may be the person who can make that happen.**

(Photo above of typical OLLI classroom by Michael Coyne)

[Back to top](#)

OLLI POETS SUCCEED IN VIRGINIA COMPETITION

OLLI members Mike McNamara and Barbara Achilles win awards

AT AN AWARDS CEREMONY IN RICHMOND ON APR 22, The Poetry Society of Virginia announced the winners in its 2006 Poetry Contest.

OLLI member Mike McNamara took First Place out of 88 competitors in the Ada Sanderson Memorial Competition on the subject of *Nature* with his "Covey" (printed below).



Mike (*photo at right, by Rod Zumbro*) was also awarded a Second Place prize in the Philomene Hood Honorary Competition on the subject of *The Prairie* (23 competitors) with his "Line Storm, Dakota Country" and a Third Honorable Mention for his "A Villanelle for the Inca Atahualpa: November 1532" encouraging inter-ethnic relations. This was the first time that Mike entered this competition, and he has already generously donated his prize winnings to the "Friends of OLLI."

Barbara Achilles, who heads up OLLI's Poetry Workshop, received a First Honorary Mention in the Handy Andy Competition for limericks with her "For Fun and Prophet."

The Poetry Society of Virginia received more than 1,460 submissions for this annual contest that covered some 28 categories. Contributions and awards were about equally distributed among out-of-state and Virginia residents and included several international contributors. The judges were drawn from nationally known and published poets and members of several academic faculties, including Claudia Emerson of Mary Washington University who has just been selected as the recipient of the 2006 Pulitzer Prize in Poetry.

Covey

I heard them calling half a mile away
And loosed the setter. She circled twice, then found
Warm trace, and bolted to the wind. They'd stay
(I knew) snug within the sagebrush ground.

She swept in redplumed flourishes ahead
In some old hunting game of hot and cold,
Then slowed, stiffened; stalked along a thread

That when followed, questioned; answered: told
 Her where and which, how many, and much more
 That she would know and would never say.

Slow stepping and near, she heard the silent roar
 Of hidden, vibrant things that threatened, lay
 Motionless, warm, poised, strung
 Notched and drawn, then flung.

I'd flushed the covey; watched their flight;
 Heard their feathered whisper as they rose;
 Six racing arrows shot beyond my sight,
 Sped from wonderful, unknown, unseen bows.

[Back to top](#)

COMMUNICATIONS AT OLLI

A primer for new members and a reminder for other members



By Rod Zumbro, OLLI E-News editor

TO GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR OLLI MEMBERSHIP, you should know about communications at OLLI. First, this newsletter is OLLI's primary means of communicating with members (occasionally you will also receive an email President's Message or an email from the office).

Second, you are encouraged to communicate with OLLI whenever you have a question, suggestion, complaint or compliment.

- **Contact any Board member or the responsible OLLI person** (committee chair, staff member) personally or via phone or email. Look at our [Organization page](#) for job responsibilities and in the Membership Directory for phone number or email address, if needed.
- **Email the entire Board of directors:** just send your message [to the office](#), and Tallwood Site Administrator Ann Hartmann will forward it to everyone on the Board (useful for expressing an opinion about an issue to be discussed by the Board).
- **Use the suggestion box [online](#)** or in the Tallwood Social Room.
- **Get published in OLLI E-News.** Write a feature article related to OLLI ... or submit any suggestion, complaint or compliment as a "letter to the editor" (you can use a suggestion box or [email your editor](#); if you include your name and email address or telephone number, we can honor requests to publish your

letter anonymously). Submit etiquette questions or comments as a "letter to Ms. Ollie Ettakit" in the same manner.

- **Contact the office** by [email](#), telephone or in person.

If you do not have email, we **STRONGLY** encourage you to **get email** so you can receive timely communications from OLLI. You do NOT have to own a computer -- just go to your public library, sign up for a free Web email account (we recommend [Yahoo Mail](#)) and then check your email at least once a week. If you are afraid of email and computers, read [this article](#). Make sure to send your new email address [to the office](#).

[Back to top](#)

ABE SPERO SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

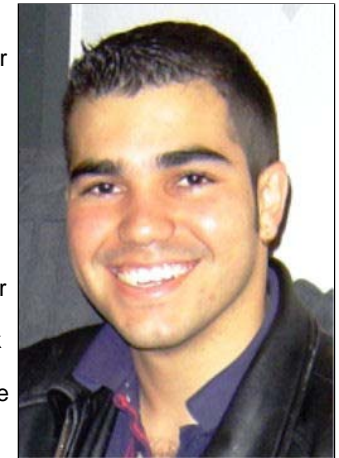
Pianist Jorge Martinez is the 2006 winner



By Kitty O'Hara, OLLI E-News staff writer

THIS YEAR'S RECIPIENT OF THE ABE SPERO MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP

is Jorge Luis Martinez -- a most determined young man. Born in Cuba, he moved with his family to Costa Rica. As a Cuban, he knew that if he touched American soil he could obtain temporary legal status and the chance for permanent residency. Since he wanted the opportunities available to a pianist in the U.S., he took the chance. Getting from Costa Rica to Mexico and then to New Mexico took serious planning, persistence and courage. After two years in the United States he became a permanent resident and was able to start college at Mason.



Jorge is an outstanding pianist and will be featured as *soloist in the Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto at Mason's Music Scholarship Concert at 8:00 on Fri, Apr 28.*

One of the most exciting things about the evening is that when he walks on stage for the concert, it will be the first time his mother has seen him since he left Costa Rica in 2003.

Besides taking classes, Jorge teaches piano both at Mason and on his own. In his occasional spare time, he enjoys salsa dancing. He hopes to have a career playing both solo and ensemble. His Russian piano teacher in Costa Rica helped inspired his

goal of eventually establishing a piano conservatory.

[Back to top](#)

NEW VIDEO--"2006 OLLI MEMBER TESTIMONIALS"

Brief comments by Roxanne, Manny and Vera

THIS WEEK WE PRESENT THREE RECENT TESTIMONIALS. OLLI members Roxanne Cramer, Manny Pablo and Vera DeWeese tell how they heard about OLLI and what they like about our wonderful institute. [Watch now](#) (total run time, 3 1/2 minutes).

Previous OLLI Video News movies: Egypt Highlights; Coptic Church Iconography; The Fall of the House of Tallwood; Ancient Ephesus; A Day in Istanbul; OLLI 2005 Holiday Party.



DIALUP USERS MAY WATCH THESE MOVIES! If you have a dialup Internet connection, you too may "easily" watch any of these movies; you just need to download and save the movie to your computer first, and then watch it at your leisure. Follow these instructions, and be patient!

- Go to the [OLLI Video News page](#).
- To download and save a movie: In Microsoft Internet Explorer, right click your PC's mouse on the movie's name and select "Save Target As...".
- In the "Save As" popup window, select a location to save the movie (we recommend your Desktop so you can easily find it) and then click the Save button.
- Leave your computer and do some chores or read a magazine or whatever. This will take a long time because of the slow connection; an OLLI member with AOL dialup told us that the six-minute Istanbul movie took an hour and a half to download! Don't use your computer until the download is complete. (*Members with a broadband Internet connection can start watching any movie within 20-30 seconds.*)
- After the movie has been saved to your desired location, just go to that location and click the movie's name to start playing it. It will start playing immediately since it is already on your computer now.

Note: If you use a different Web browser or a Mac, follow the specific steps for downloading and saving that apply to your browser/computer.

[Back to top](#)

COMING EVENTS AT THE CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Something for everyone at nearby Mason



By Jan Bohall, OLLI E-News staff writer

For tickets, call 888-945-2468 or visit the [Center for the Arts](#) Box Office, Tue–Sat, 10:00–6:00.

GMU Players Mainstage <i>Trojan Women by Euripides</i>	GMU Music Scholarship Concert	GMU Vocal Jazz Ensemble	United States Marine Band
Fri, Sat, Apr 28-29, at 8:00 Sat, Sun, Apr 29-30, at 2:00 Admission \$7 seniors/students, \$10 adults TheaterSpace (From Level 2 of Parking Deck take the bridge. Enter first door on left and follow hallway, go through gray doors and downstairs.)	<i>Features the GMU Symphony Orchestra, Chamber Singers and University Chorale ... and OLLI scholarship winner Jorge Martinez</i> Fri, Apr 28, at 8:00 Admission \$8 seniors/students, \$15 adults Concert Hall	Sun, Apr 30, at 1:00 Admission is Free Johnson Center Bistro	<i>Captain Michelle A. Rakers, conducting</i> Sun, Apr 30, at 2:00 Admission is Free Concert Hall
GMU Dance Company	The Nrityagram Dance Ensemble <i>Sacred Space/Margam – The Path</i>	GMU Opera A Celebration of Mozart, Part II <i>The Marriage of Figaro</i>	Mark O'Connor's Appalachian Waltz Trio
Thu, Fri, Sat May 4-6, at 8:00 Admission \$7 seniors/students, \$10 adults Dance Performance Studio For tickets call 703-218-6500	<i>Based on ancient ritual dances from India performed in the innermost sanctum of Hindu temples.</i> Fri, May 5, at 8:00 Admission \$42, \$34, \$21 Family Friendly: Children 12 and under, half price Concert Hall Come early at 7:15	<i>Fri performance features Adrianna Sgarlata, who sang for OLLI's Music Sampler class, as Susanna.</i> Fri, Sat, May 5-6, at 8:00 Admission \$10 seniors/students, \$12 adults Harris Theater	Sat, May 6, at 8:00 Admission \$40, \$32, \$20 Family Friendly: Children 12 and under, half price Concert Hall Come early for a pre-performance artistic discussion on the Hall's Grand Tier.

for a pre-performance artistic discussion on the Hall's Grand Tier.

[Back to top](#)

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 more complete [OLLI Staff Forecast of Non-Class Events](#).

APR			
28	Friday	8:30 AM	Spec Event G: Montpelier Bus Trip Fair Oaks Mall Lot #44
		10:00 AM	Recorder Class/Club TA-2
		11:30 AM	French Club TA-3
		1:00 PM	Informational Program: Diet for Seniors TA-1
		1:30 PM	Homer Book Club Annex
MAY			
1	Monday	10:00 AM	Handbook Comm Mtg Annex
2	Tuesday	8:15 AM	Walking Club Lake Anne Church
3	Wednesday	1:30 PM	Annual Meeting TA-1
			Special Events Comm Mtg to follow Annual Mtg TA-2
5	Friday	9:30 AM	Drama Club TA-1
		10:00 AM	Recorder Class/Club TA-2
		10:30 AM	Reston Support Committee Mtg, Lake Anne Church
		11:30 AM	French Club TA-3
		1:00 PM	Movie-"1776" Intro by Park Ranger Epstein TA-1
		1:30 PM	Homer Book Club Annex
9	Tuesday	8:15 AM	Walking Club Lake Anne Church
10	Wednesday	1:30 PM	Bridge TA-2
		1:30 AM	Book Club at Tallwood Annex
		2:00 PM	Spec Event H: Hiking for Health TA-1
		2:00 PM	History Club TA-3
12	Friday	9:00 AM	Spec Event I: Bus Trip National Arboretum Fair Oaks Mall Lot #44
		9:30 AM	Drama Club TA-1
		10:00 AM	Recorder Class/Club TA-2
		11:30 AM	French Club TA-3
		1:00 PM	Informational Program: Hearing Loss TA-1
		1:30 PM	Homer Book Club Annex

[Back to top](#)



Rod Zumbro
Editor



Karen Hamilton
Deputy Editor

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About OLLI E-News. *OLLI E-News* is OLLI's weekly newsletter; it 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. We encourage OLLI members and staff employees to submit news items and write articles; deadline to the editor is 7:00 PM Wed for that week's issue. Comments, suggestions or complaints? Please contact the [OLLI E-News editor](#) or the Publications Committee chair, [Gordon Canyock](#).

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- **Outlook Express.** Click Tools; select Options; in the Read tab, uncheck "Read all messages in plain text."
- **Yahoo Mail.** Click Mail Options/General Preferences; under Security, uncheck "Block HTML graphics in email messages from being downloaded."
- **AOL.** Upgrade, if possible, to an AOL version above 5.0.

GMU Webmail. If *OLLI E-News* is being sent to your gm.u.edu email address, we recommend against using [GMU Webmail](#) (i.e., iPlanet "Messenger Express") to read the newsletter because we have found that usually you cannot view our newsletter as a single integrated document, with text and accompanying images. It's not necessary to use GMU Webmail since you can easily use other email systems, such as Outlook Express or Yahoo Mail, to retrieve mail sent to external addresses such as your gm.u.edu address. An alternative is to read your newsletter online at the [OLLI Website](#) after it is posted each Friday.

[Back to top](#)

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