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OLLI E-News

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



ISSUE DATE: Fri, May 2, 2008

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ALERTS

- > **SUMMER TERM:** Catalog is now available [online](#). Expect your printed catalog during week of May 12. Registration begins Mon, May 19. Summer term: Jun 16 through Jul 25.
- > **DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!** You have two weeks to vote after the annual meeting (until noon on May 16). You may vote for up to six candidates. Ballots can be returned by mail or dropped in ballot boxes at the Lake Anne Church or the Tallwood office.
- > **WATCH LA VIE EN ROSE:** Marion Cotillard won Oscar for best actress. To be shown in Beverley Persell's French Conversation class 11:30 Mon, May 5, TA-2. All are welcome.

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REPORT FROM PHOENIX, PART 3

From the executive director



By [Thom Clement](#), Executive Director

I AM CONTINUING MY ANALYSIS of information from the National OLLI Conference that Pat Carroll and I attended in early April. Last week, I commented on the variations in how "membership" is defined among the 119 OLLIs. I also described differences in the fees and payment options as well as the number and duration of course terms.

There are also striking differences in the **quality and numbers of courses** offered by OLLIs across the nation. Our OLLI at George Mason University works hard to provide a wide variety of courses in six curricular areas as well as numerous special activities and presentations that cover an even wider spectrum of interests. This spring we are offering 63 courses, and the total for 2008 will be over 250. In many OLLIs, there are fewer than 10 courses offered per term, with very few approaching our totals. Although lifelong learning institutes generally offer high-quality classes, our OLLI stands apart from most in the extent to which we have top-quality faculty from Mason as well as current and former officials from government and national institutions. This quality is a reflection of the dynamic membership of OLLI at Mason, which includes a high proportion of individuals with advanced degrees and extensive backgrounds in academia, government, military, and the business world.

What makes this quality programming even more remarkable is the fact that all of our **OLLI instructors are volunteering their time!** This is not the case at many OLLIs, but it is a reflection of the culture of OLLI at Mason. The passion and commitment of OLLI members who volunteer their time to serve in many capacities is what truly sets us apart. When we see our outstanding speakers and instructors obviously enjoying the volunteering of their time, it inspires us to contribute in other ways to support the classrooms and learning environment,

the administrative functions, the communication tools, and the fundraising efforts. The chairpersons of the various committees and the elected members of our Board of Directors set an example of service that is remarkable.

The relationship between each OLLI and its host institution is vital. The majority of OLLIs are located on campus and in the departments of Extended Studies or Continuing Education. Staff functions are provided by people who are hired, supervised, and paid by the university or college. Although this has its advantages, it means that the college has almost total control of the budget and programming of the OLLI. OLLI at Mason has a unique "affiliation" agreement in which we depend on the university for our main facilities, including maintenance and utilities. However, we have a tradition of independence regarding all other aspects of our operation, including the development of our program, hiring and paying staff, and providing a variety of support for members.

We certainly can learn from the excellent programs offered by OLLIs across the nation. As we meet the challenges of a growing membership and limitations of current facilities, we will be seeking information from other institutes who are dealing with similar issues. It's an exciting time to be involved in lifelong learning!

THE CHAIRMAN VISITS OLLI

Gerry Connolly's talk last Friday



OLLI directors Susanne Zumbro, Lilyan Spero with Chairman Gerry Connolly

Photo by Gordon Canyonk

GERRY CONNOLLY, CHAIRMAN OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, spoke at OLLI last Friday to a large gathering of OLLI members in TA-1. One topic of interest to the audience was Fairfax County's "50+ Action Plan." Click [here](#) to view the plan's Web site.

EYE ON RESTON

Three news items



By Sharon Gilman, *OLLI E-News* Staff Writer



Lake Anne Plaza in Reston. *Photo by Stan Schretter.*

AN OBJECTIVE FOR THIS COMING YEAR IS TO GROW OLLI IN RESTON

by taking advantage of the opportunities that the Greater Reston area offers. We need to have quality programs that appeal to the optimum number of members. A request for volunteers was made recently to assist in this endeavor. We are happy to report the following people have answered the call.

- Marilyn Hedtke—History & Current Events Resource Group
- Betty Weiner—Literature/Language/Theater Resource Group
- Luci Martel—Finance & Economics Resource Group
- Amy George—Art & Music Resource Group
- Mary Rose Komreich—Science/Technology/Health Resource Group
- Sharon Gilman—Communications
- Stan Schretter—Photography
- Lillian Justice—Pending
- Len Libster—Brochure & Pamphlet Design
- Bob Simon—Ambassador at Large

In addition, the Lake Anne classrooms now have access to the Internet. This is a very positive upgrade. We will now have the potential to attract session leaders who require this type of AV support.

Were you unable to attend the Tallwood Silent Auction and Picnic today? Well, on Fri, May 21, you will have another opportunity to participate in a Silent Auction and Picnic—to be held in the Reston area. Mark your calendars for May 21, 4:00 to 7:00. More details will follow in next week's Eye on Reston.

THE DAWN OF THE AGE OF PERSONALIZED THERAPY

Developments in the use of nanotechnology to treat diseases



Prof. Liotta and Prof. Petricoin

OLLI IS PROUD TO WELCOME TWO SCIENTISTS from George Mason's Center for the Applied Proteomics and Molecular Medicine for the Tue, May 13, session of course #803, "Science and Technology Today." Dr. Lance Liotta and Dr. Emanuel Petricoin, co-directors of the center, will join us to speak about dramatic developments in the use of nanotechnology to treat diseases such as cancer, Alzheimer's, and schizophrenia. The new technology can be programmed to target certain types of biomarkers and latch on to them for early detection.

Drs. Liotta and Petricoin were selected to make this presentation as part of

the Mason Provost's Vision series this spring. Seats are still available for this session in TA-1 from 2:00–3:30. Email the OLLI office at olli@gmu.edu to sign up!

WALKERS/HIKERS PLAN TRIP TO NATIONAL ARBORETUM

Sat, May 10, unless it rains



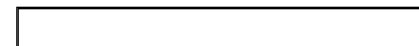
THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM IS A WASHINGTON, DC, TREASURE of beautiful flowers and gardens. Join us to see a hillside covered in azaleas of different colors, flowering dogwoods, the Japanese Garden and the National Bonsai exhibit.

The Arboretum covers 446 acres so there are plenty of opportunities for walking. We will meet at the pool parking lot next to Tallwood on Sat, May 10, at 9:30 and carpool to the Arboretum. Please bring lunch. We should plan to return between 2:30 and 3:00. You can contact Sherry Hart for further information. We will cancel in case of rain but misty is OK.

OLLI POET RECOGNIZED

Mike McNamara receives honorable mentions

THE POETRY SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA recently announced its 2008 awards, and OLLI's Mike McNamara received two 1st Honorable Mentions and a 2nd Honorable Mention. There were about 1,600 entries submitted for this big competition. We congratulate Mike for this recognition and are pleased to publish one of his poems, Honorable Mention in the Society's Scott Kirkpatrick Memorial Award.



Sweet Science

The second or third time
 You read it,
 It announces itself
 At last: Clearly, certainly, loudly,
 As through some descended
 microphone,
 This deus ex machina,
 Over your seat in this arena.
 It comes across
 So blindingly quick and absolute,
 Like a wonderful right hook
 After exploratory left jabs;
 As when Ernest, Ezra, Norman,
 Or whoever else
 That cares for this damned stuff,
 Spars seriously in that sweated,
 Squared circle of this sweet science,
 to
 Hammer those things home
 That will eventually
 Flatten you for a long, long count.

TONIGHT: FIRST FRIDAYS AT OLD TOWN HALL RETURNS

Play readings plus free refreshments in Fairfax City



TONIGHT AT 8:00, Mason's Theater of the First Amendment (TFA) returns with First Fridays at Old Town Hall. This event is part of the Spotlight on the Arts celebration currently happening in the City of Fairfax. TFA will present a series of staged readings of the many plays that will be part of its Mason Festival of the Arts coming in June. Selections will be read from *Two-Bit Taj*

Mahal by Paul D'Andrea and *Mariela in the Desert* by Karen Zacarias, both of which will receive full productions in the Festival.

In addition, see excerpts from the plays selected for the First Light Development Program, including *The Death of the Fourth Estate* by Kerry Gildea and *Dirty Pictures* by D. W. Gregory.

Winning plays from TFA's Playwriting Competition and Mentorship Program

will be represented through *Boxes* by Sarah Congress, a student from Hayfield High School, and *Cyberdate.com* by Mason student John Touhy.

As always, this salon-like evening will include wine and cheese, socializing, and best of all, it's FREE! Questions? Contact TFA Managing Director Kevin Murray at 703-993-2195 or kmurra3@gmu.edu.

OLLI MILITARY OUTREACH

An update



By Helen Goff, OLLI Liaison to Mason Military Outreach

Committee

HERE IS ANOTHER EXAMPLE of how your continued support of Mason Military Outreach is helping our soldiers:

*My son also let me know that he received his goodies from me and Mason. He was thrilled. He really appreciated you and all the people who contributed and worked on the assembly line to put together the wonderful care packages. On behalf of my son, his dad and all the other military families, we all say HOOAA! -- GREAT JOB, YOU ARE TERRIFIC.
 -- Yolanda*

To date, OLLI has donated \$199 towards mailing packages and two large boxes and two shopping bags of items to Mason Military Outreach. Keep up the good work. Your efforts make a difference.

HISTORY CLUB MEETING

"THE BROWN WATER NAVY"



THE HISTORY CLUB WILL MEET on Wed, May 7, in TA-1 from 2:00 to 3:30, when OLLI's Ben Gold will give another splendid multi-media presentation, this time on "The Brown Water Navy: U.S. Navy Inshore Operations During the Vietnam War."

OLLI members and guests are always welcome at any of the club's meetings.

LOUDOUN LINES (FOR ALL OLLI MEMBERS!)

Four more weeks in Loudoun's spring term



By Sharon Gilman, OLLI E-News Staff Writer

SINCE OLLI AT LOUDOUN STARTS TWO WEEKS LATER than OLLI at Tallwood and Lake Anne, there are still four weeks remaining in the Loudoun spring term. OLLI members who don't usually come to Loudoun are encouraged to come and try out a couple of our programs. Times and titles follow:

- Mondays at 1:00: Explorations in Religion
- Tuesdays at 10:30: Great Decisions
- Tuesdays at 1:00: Campaign Issues
- Wednesdays at 10:30: Visiting Authors
- Thursdays at 10:30: Aging Productively
- Thursdays at 1:00: Broadway Musicals

Read details about these courses in the [Loudoun catalog \(pdf\)](#). Come try us out!

SINGLES GROUP EVENT

GAME DAY

THE OLLI SINGLES GROUP IS HOLDING a game day featuring an assortment of board and card games on Sun, May 18, from 1:30 to whenever at Barbara Lynch's home. Nibbles, beer and wine will be served at this afternoon event that offers fun and friendship.

Attendees will be the first 16 people to sign up with Barbara (email only!).

CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Arts and music events at Mason,
May 2-11



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](#).

GMU Dance Company May Concert

Fri, Sat, May 2, 3, at
8:00

Admission:
seniors/students \$7,
other adults, \$10
Dance Performance
Studio (3rd floor of the
Performing Arts Bldg.,
adjacent to the Concert
Hall).

GMU Players #3 Measure for Measure by William Shakespeare

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.

Fri, Sat, May 2-3, at 8:00
Sat, Sun, May 3-4, at
2:00

Admission: \$8
seniors/students, \$12
other adults

Diavolo



This group is made up
of dancers, gymnasts
and actors that use
oversize structures and
surrealistic sets of
commonplace items.
Performers leap, fly and
twirl to portray metaphors
for the absurdities of life.
Fri, Sat, May 2, 3, at 8:00
Admission: \$44, \$36, \$22
Family friendly: Children
12 and under half price
with an adult
Concert Hall
Come at 7:15 for a pre-
performance artistic
discussion in the Grand
Tier III Lobby.

**GMU Opera
Tartuffe
by Kirke Mechem**
Fri, Sat, May 2, 3, at
8:00
Admission: \$15
seniors/students, \$20
other adults
Harris Theater

2008 GMU Music Scholarship Concert featuring University Symphony Orchestra, Choirs and Concerto Soloists

The groups will
perform *Slava!* by
Leonard Bernstein as
well as selections from
Gilbert and Sullivan
operettas. Musicians
well-known to OLLI
members include
Anthony Maiello,
conductor of the
Symphony Orchestra,
and Dr. Lisa A.
Billingham and Dr.
Stanley Engebretson,
conductors of the
University Chorale and
University Singers.
Provost Peter N.
Stearns will make a
special guest
appearance.
Sun, May 4, at 7:00

Theater Space (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.)

Admission: \$15 seniors/students, \$20 other adults
Concert Hall

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra
Masterworks 6
Elmar Oliveira, violin
Oliveira is the only American violinist ever to win a gold medal at the famed Tchaikovsky International Competition in Moscow. With the FSO he will perform Bruch's *Scottish Fantasy* which features a prominent role for harp. The orchestra will also play Debussy's *Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun* and Prokofiev's *Symphony No. 5*.
Sat, May 10, at 8:00
Concert Hall
\$55, \$45, \$35, \$25
Come early for a free, pre-concert lecture at 7:00

2008 Honors Recital
Sun, May 11, at 3:00
featuring selected student performers
Harris Theater
Free/Non-Ticketed

MASON HIGHLIGHTS

Other Mason events



By Barbara Kyriakakis, OLLI E-News Staff Writer

- **Dance Performance** – Mason Dance Company Concert, Sat, May 3, 8:00, Performing Arts Building, Dance Performance Studio. \$7 with Mason ID. Call Center for the Arts Box Office at 703-993-8888.
- **Cinema Series** – *Cloverfield*, Sat, May 3, 6:00 and 9:00, JC Cinema. \$1.00 with Mason ID.
- **Krasnow Seminar** - "Development of Complex Skills in Great Apes: A Comparative Perspective on Social Influences," presented by Elizabeth V.

Lonsdorf, Director of The Lester E. Fisher Center for the Study and Conservation of Apes, Lincoln Park Zoo, Chicago. Mon, May 4, 4:00, 229 Krasnow Building.

- **Undergraduate Student Art Exhibition** – May 1-19, 9:00 to 9:00 M-F, Fine Arts Gallery in the Fine Arts Building, and Gallery 123 in the Johnson Center.

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 May 2 10am Annual Membership Meeting including candidate speeches - TA-1**
9:00 to 9:55am and 11:45am (about) to 1:30pm **Silent Auction - TA-3**
11:45am (about) **OLLI Picnic - Tallwood Grounds**
Monday May 5 1pm Lake Anne Bridge Club
Wednesday May 7 10am Spec Events Res Grp Mtg - TA-2
1:30pm Bridge Club - TA-3
2pm Program Review Comm Mtg - TA-2
2pm History Club - TA-1
Friday May 9 Loudoun Spec Event - Dodona Manor and Lightfoot Restaurant
9:30am Drama Club - TA-3
9:30am 963-Spec Event-Hillwood Estate - Bus Trip - Fair Oaks
10am Italian Club - TA-Annex
10am Recorder Group - TA-2
1:30pm Homer, Etc. Book Club - TA-Annex
Monday May 12 1pm Lake Anne Bridge Club
Wednesday May 14 1:30pm Bridge Club - TA-3
2pm 964-Spec Event-Chancellorsville Part I - TA-1
Thursday May 15 11am Fiction Writers Club - Kings Park Library
Friday May 16 **SPRING TERM Ends**
9:30am Drama Club - TA-3

9:30am 965-Spec Event-Chancellorsville-Part II - Bus Trip-Fair Oaks
 10am Italian Club - TA-Annex
 10am Recorder Group - TA-2
12noon Ballots due at Lake Anne or Tallwood office for Board of Directors election
 1:30pm Homer, Etc. Book Club - TA-Annex



Rod Zumbro
Editor



Karen Hamilton
Deputy Editor

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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.

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.

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**

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Reviewer and Backup Editor
John West

Database Manager
Barbara Kyriakakis

Reviewer and Photo Editor
Michael Coyne

"Messenger Express") to read this newsletter **unless you are using Firefox** as your browser; in Firefox, just click the text/html link to view the newsletter. This does not normally work with Internet Explorer (although you may be able to make it work by clicking Open after clicking the text/html link and then selecting Internet Explorer as the program to use to view the link).

- You could forward the newsletter to your alternate Web-based email account such as Yahoo Mail or Hotmail and read it there ... or read it online at the [OLLI Website](#) each Friday.

- Perhaps the easiest solution for those of you with gm.u.edu email accounts is to configure your desktop email system such as Microsoft Outlook Express, Microsoft Windows Mail or Mozilla Thunderbird to retrieve mail sent to your gm.u.edu address. To do this, see [these instructions](#).

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