



OLLI E-News

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



ISSUE Friday, August 17,
DATE: 2007

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FLASH	> TA-3 STRUCTURAL REPAIRS COMPLETED. TA-3 has been put back into use for clubs, meetings, etc.
ALERTS	> RESOURCE GROUP MEETING. History, International Studies & Current Events Resource Group will meet 10:00 Wed, Aug 29, TA-3. All members welcome and their suggestions needed. > OPEN HOUSE AT OLLI-LOUDOUN CAMPUS. 10:30 Mon, Sep 10. All members welcome. Map and directions.
ARTICLES AND NOTICES	> IT'S ALMOST TIME ... TO REGISTER. Fourth in the series about registration. <i>By Dick Chobot</i> > TWO CHANGES TO FALL CATALOG. Important notice. > OLLI PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB. First meeting scheduled. > DO GOOD ... AND FEEL GOOD DOING IT! A volunteer opportunity to help Mason students. <i>By Dick Chobot</i> > OLLI RECORDER ENSEMBLE. A report on a performance.
DEPARTMENTS	> PROFILE. New Board Member Bob Lawshe. <i>By Carolyn Sanders</i> > MASON HIGHLIGHTS. Mason events. <i>By Barbara Kyriakakis</i> > COMING ATTRACTIONS. Upcoming non-class events.

IT'S ALMOST TIME ... TO REGISTER

Fourth in the series about the new registration system



By [Dick Chobot](#), Executive Director

REGISTRATION FOR THE FALL TERM OPENS ON WED, AUG 22. The online system will be available at 8:00 am. As we have explained in past articles, walk-in registration will start at 10:00 am at Tallwood.

A number of things have changed with this fall's registration. The three prior articles described the new online registration system. This final article will discuss two issues: changes to the registration process and payment by credit card.

CHANGES TO THE REGISTRATION PROCESS

In January 2007, the OLLI Board passed the following resolution: Effective with the implementation of the new online registration system, assignment to each over-subscribed course shall be made on a computer-generated random basis until the course is filled. An "over-subscribed" course is defined as one where the number of members signed up exceeds either the instructor cap or 110 percent of the capacity of the classroom.

Here is how the new process will work.

- > Members will continue to specify priorities on their registration form.
- > Classes will be filled by priority (i.e., all priority 1 before priority 2; priority 2 before priority 3; etc.)
- EXCEPT that...**
 - > If there are **more priority 1s than class slots**, random selection will be used to fill the slots; the remainder of the registrants will be placed on the wait list in the order in which they registered. This might occur in the case of courses where the instructor has capped the number to be admitted to the class.
 - > If **all priority 1s are satisfied, but not all priority 2 registrants can be accommodated**, random selection from among all priority 2s will be used to fill the remaining slots. Once the slots are filled, the remainder of priority 2s will be placed on a wait list in the order in which they registered.
 - > This process also will apply to special events.

Past experience suggests that, at the close of registration, there will be 10-12 courses that will be closed due to over subscription and to which this process will be applied. What does this mean for you? It is still desirable to get your registration in promptly. However, for popular courses where there may well be over-subscription, the possibility of random selection is high.

This change is a Board directive. The stated rationale for the change is in fairness to members who: "...cannot get to the Website during the first day of registration ... and those who prefer not to register online."

The change in the registration process removes the pressure of registering early or in person. However, you must still, in the words of the knight in *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*, "choose wisely" in establishing your selection priorities. It is these priorities, in the end, that govern your placement/opportunity for placement in a course.

PAYMENT BY CREDIT CARD

Data collected during the 2007 Membership Survey suggests that there is a relatively high degree of enthusiasm for online registration, but not for online payment. As you consider this new registration tool, please consider the following:

- > Online payment was initiated for the convenience of members.
- > If you have **fees to pay**, and you wish to register online, you must pay by credit card.
- > If you have **no fees to pay**, you can register online. If your membership is due, and you wish to register online but not pay by credit card, you can come into the office and pay/renew membership by check and then register online.
- > If you are concerned about the security of the registration software, know that:
 - >> No credit card information is entered into or retained on the OLLI server.
 - >> All transactions are through VeriSign, one of the most secure online payment services.
 - >> You receive immediate email confirmation of your payment.

Paul Howard and others taught a course on computer security during the spring term. Paul indicates that VeriSign/PayPal is a reliable provider of secure Internet credit-card transaction services at a very competitive cost. He goes on to say that users need to ensure that their Internet browser's URL window displays **https://** and that a **padlock symbol** appears at the bottom of any page

on which the user is entering credit-card payment information. Needless to say, anyone using the Internet for financial transactions also must have basic system security installed and be aware of common scams such as *phishing*, designed to steal identity information.

Change is unsettling. The new registration process and online tools are a change from past practice. While it may be initially unsettling for some, I hope you will look beyond and see the potential for increased efficiency and expedited service for OLLI members.

RELATED ARTICLES

- > [Overview of new registration system](#) (Jul 13, 2007)
- > [New registration system: what can I do?](#) (Jul 20, 2007)
- > [Fall registration](#) (Jul 27, 2007)

Note. To re-emphasize an important point concerning registration: **If a course is NOT oversubscribed, then EVERYONE who registers for it gets in the course regardless of when he or she registers and regardless of the priority assigned by that person to that course.** For oversubscribed courses only, the computer-generated random-number system rather than the previous "first-come, first-served" system will apply to fill course slots.
So it matters little when or how you register as long as you register before registration closes on Fri, Aug 31. You no longer need worry about trying to be among the first in line.
 -- Rod Zumbro, Board member, *OLLI E-News* editor

TWO CHANGES TO FALL CATALOG
Important notice

CLASS CANCELED	SPECIAL EVENT CHANGED
Class "410 Life Story Writing Workshop" has been canceled by the instructor for personal reasons.	Special event "954 - Rick Atkinson (Fall For the Book)": The time and location of this event has been changed. It will start at 5:00 on Wed, Sep 26, and be held in the Concert Hall, Center for the Arts. The bus from Tallwood will leave at 4:15.

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OLLI PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

First meeting scheduled



THE INITIAL MEETING OF THE OLLI PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB will be at held in TA-1 on Fri, 24 Aug, from 10:00 till noon. So far, about two-dozen people have expressed interest in joining this new OLLI group.

If you have an interest in photography, this is the group for you. Some of us are relative newcomers just learning to use a basic camera, and some have more advanced equipment. Some are interested in documenting trips/vacations, in capturing the beauty of nature, in seeing the commonplace in a unique way, in exhibitions or competitions, and much more. Many take their film/digital chip to a neighborhood photo store; others are interested in a "digital darkroom."

We'll have discussions, instructions, and help on technical aspects of photography, as well as the more artistic aspects of composition and visual design. We'll have field trips to take pictures, we'll have times to get together socially, and we'll have our regular meetings at OLLI.

Dan Feighery is the initial club coordinator. If you are interested in joining our OLLI Photography Club, please [send Dan an email](mailto:dfeigher@gmu.edu) (dfeigher@gmu.edu) with "OLLI Photo Club" in the subject line ... and mark the time and date of the first meeting on your calendar.

The agenda for that first meeting includes a display of prints, a short slide presentation that attempts to show commonplace things photographed from a different point of view, getting to know each other's photographic interests, and perhaps most important, discussion on what folks want from the club. Starting in Sep, we expect to meet on Wed (club day)--probably the second and/or the fourth Wed of the month. More on that at the Aug 24 meeting.

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DO GOOD ... AND FEEL GOOD DOING IT!

A volunteer opportunity to help Mason students



By [Dick Chobot](#), Executive Director

MASON LIFE (LEARNING IN FUTURE ENVIRONMENTS) is an inclusive post-secondary program that provides an opportunity to experience college life in a supportive environment to young adults with intellectual difficulties. The program operates under the Helen A. Kellar Institute within the College of Education and Human Development.



Sixteen young adults, aged 18 to 23, currently are enrolled in the program. Heidi Graff is the Mason LIFE Program Director. Earlier this week Heidi contacted me and asked if any OLLI members might be interested in serving as instructors for a course she is attempting to put together. The objective of the course is to expose the students to different topics and individuals with a variety of life experiences – which fits OLLI members to a "T."

The course sessions will be offered Mondays during the fall semester, from 2:00–3:00. The final location has not yet been determined but it will be on the main campus.

The types of programs that appeal to the students are highly visual and highly participatory. Some possibilities that come to mind are Trip Tales, poetry (Heidi indicated that some of the students are interested and have written in this genre), and perhaps something along the lines of Readers' Theater.

I have made no commitments for either OLLI or any individual instructor. If you are interested in offering your support for this program, please contact Heidi directly by phone (703-993-8036) or [email](#). If you agree to participate as specified, I would appreciate knowing so that I can thank you personally for your generosity.

RELATED LINK

> [Mason LIFE Website](#)

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OLLI RECORDER ENSEMBLE

A report on a recent performance



Left to right: OLLI members Louise McLean, Karen Holmfeld, Jayne Hart, Robert McLean and Mike McNamara. Six-year-old Sylvie Burkholder and her mother, Joanne Burkholder (standing). Photo by Julie McNamara.

THE OLLI RECORDER ENSEMBLE was recently invited to play at a Children's Music Camp at the Fairfax United Methodist Church. On Aug 1, we played a 20-minute program for each of the three camp groups (K, 1-3 and 4-6). The program included a wide range of music from Bach, Susato and Humperdink (*Evening Prayer* from Hansel and Gretel), some German and Welsh folk songs, as well as Dick Chobot's favorite hymn, *Nearer My God to Thee*. A very special treat for the children was a recorder duet by the McLean's daughter, Joanne, and six-year-old granddaughter, Sylvie, who were visiting from California.

Current members of the ensemble include Louise and Robert McLean, Karen Holmfeld, Mike McNamara and Jayne Hart. We are very interested in expanding the OLLI Recorder Ensemble and welcome new players, including beginners. Practice is held Friday mornings from 10:00-11:30 in TA-2. Contact our manager, Robert McLean, at 703-768-6297 or one of the other members for additional information.

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MASON RESEARCH STUDY

THE ARCH LAB at George Mason University, Fairfax campus, needs healthy adults age 65 and older to participate in behavioral studies on memory and attention. *Note: The Arch Lab is comprised of a group of faculty and students who work on both basic and applied research topics in the cognitive sciences.*

Volunteers will be compensated \$15/hour for three hours of testing. Call 703-993-9491 and press 1 for the Genetics Study. Please leave your name, age, and telephone number.

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS/SUGGESTIONS ABOUT OLLI?

HERE'S HOW to express your views--

> **Publicly** (if you would like your comments published in this newsletter): Email your "Letter to the Editor" or "Letter to Ms. Ollie Ettakit" to the [editor](#). Whenever an official response 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](#) 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 on one of the "parking lots for ideas" in classrooms; or
- > Contact the office by [email](#) or phone (703-503-3384).

PROFILE OF BOB LAWSHE

Next in our series on new Board members



By Carolyn Sanders, OLLI E-News staff writer

"DULL" BOARD MEMBER. THAT'S NOT MY WORD, IT'S HIS, but don't you believe it; this Oakton resident is anything but dull!



He is smart enough to get his wife Linda to stay gainfully employed, as he says, "To support me." Bob, himself a retired guvvie, most recently worked for the Merit System Protection Board and has been a member of OLLI for two years.

In addition to his Board duties, Bob co-chairs the Religion, Philosophy and Ethics Resource Group with Bruce Reinhart. Bob's also interested in the arts, literature, and music programs in our fair organization and promises to work hard to encourage successful presenters of OLLI programs to come back and do it again so we all have a chance to enjoy classes that conflicted with others we wanted to take. Sounds like a good project for this energetic man, and I feel so smart for having voted for him.

Linda and Bob have two sons and a cat, and they share a love of theater and opera. He, a native of New Jersey, has an intriguing story about how he and she, a Kentuckian, met--I'll let you chat with him in the social room and find out those particulars for yourself.

Be sure to tell him how grateful we are for all his hard work on our behalf.

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MASON HIGHLIGHTS

A brief listing of Mason events



By Barbara Kyriakakis, OLLI E-News assistant editor

> **C4I Demonstration** – Fri, Aug 24, 9:00 to noon in S&T II, Room 320. *BLACK-CACTUS Demonstration*, presented by Per M. Gustavsson, Research Engineer, Saab.



> **Cinema Series** - Fri, Aug 31, *Spider-Man 3*. Showings at 6:00 and 9:00 in Johnson Center Cinema. \$1 with Mason ID. 703-993-1438.

> **Fall 2007 Arts Bus Trip to New York City** - Sat, Sep 22. Buses leave promptly at 6:00 from the George Mason University Fairfax Campus, Finley Building. Boarding begins at 5:30. You may park in GMU Fairfax Lot H.

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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 [OLLI Staff Forecast of Non-Class Events](#) for more details and to view the actual OLLI online calendar used by the office). *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 executive sessions).*

Friday Aug 17 10am Board of Directors meeting - TA-1
 10am Recorder Ensemble - TA-2
 10:30am Homer Book Club - Annex
 Tue Aug 21 8:15am Reston Walking Group - Lake Anne Plaza
 Wed Aug 22 Fall Registration Begins (8am online, 10am Tallwood)
 10am Bridge Club - TA-1
 10am Investment Forum - TA-2
 Fri Aug 24 10am Classic Fiction Book Club - Reston Regional Library
 10am Photography Club - TA-1
 10am Recorder Ensemble - TA-2
 10:30am Homer Book Club - Annex
 Tue Aug 28 8:15am Reston Walking Group - Lake Anne Plaza
 Wed Aug 29 10am Bridge Club - TA-1
10am History, International Studies, Current Events Resource Group meeting - TA-3
 10am Investment Forum - TA-2
 Fri Aug 31 Fall Registration Closes
 10am Recorder Ensemble - TA-2
 10:30am Homer Book Club - Annex

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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. We encourage OLLI members and staff employees to submit news items and write articles; 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. Comments, suggestions or

OLLI E-News Editorial Staff

Assistant Editor, Database Manager
Barbara Kyriakakis



Karen Hamilton
Deputy Editor

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complaints? Please contact the [OLLI E-News editor](#) or the Publications Committee chair, [Gordon Canyock](#).

Submissions. We encourage members to submit articles and photos for this newsletter. Please limit articles to about 250 words. Submit material to editor Rod Zumbro (email rzumbro@gmu.edu, phone 703-569-2750); email strongly preferred.

Note about HTML graphics. If you do NOT see photos and clickable links in this message, you might want to ask a teenaged grandchild or a neighborhood teenager or college student to fix things for you. Or you could change your email settings yourself. Here's how to view html-formatted messages like this newsletter in five popular email systems:

> **Microsoft Outlook Express and Windows Mail.** Click Tools; select Options; in the Read tab, uncheck "Read all messages in plain text."

> **Mozilla Thunderbird.** Click Tools; select Options and click the Privacy icon; click the General tab. Uncheck "Block loading of remote images" and uncheck "Block Javascript." Click OK. Now click View; select "Message Body As ... Original HTML" (not Plain Text). Also in View, select "Display Attachments Inline" so that selection is checked.

> **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**

Assistant Editor
Arleen Richman

Photo Editor
Michael Coyne

"Messenger Express") to read this newsletter because it is normally impossible to view the newsletter in GMU Webmail as a single integrated document, with text and accompanying images. You could forward the newsletter to your alternate Web-based email account such as Yahoo Mail or Hotmail and read it there ... or just read it online at the [OLLI Website](#) after it is posted each week. Perhaps the easiest solution for those of you with GMU email accounts is to configure your desktop email system such as Microsoft Outlook Express or Mozilla Thunderbird to retrieve mail sent to your gm.u.edu address. To do this, see [these instructions](#).

Finding the Latest Issue Online. The new weekly issue of *OLLI E-News* is usually posted Thursday evening. Here's how to read the online version right after it is posted:

> It is identified by the next number in sequence for that year -- e.g., if last week's issue number were enews1-07, the next issue number would be enews2-07 and could be found at www.olli.gmu.edu/enews2-07.htm.

> Thus, go to the [list of the last 12 issues](#), click the most recent issue (probably last week's), change (in the address field of your browser) the enews number to the next number, and then press Enter.

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