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**ALERTS**

- > **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING:** Fri, Sep 15, *in Reston* (Washington Plaza Baptist Church in Lake Anne Plaza). See our [Maps page](#) for directions. All OLLI members are invited to attend and express their views on [topics that will be discussed](#).
- > **OLLI BOOK CLUB** will meet 10:00 Wed, Sep 13, at Tallwood. The book for discussion is *March*, 2006 Pulitzer Prize Winner for Fiction, by [Geraldine Brooks](#). All are welcome.
- > **OLLI MEMBER PUBLISHED IN POST.** Claire Hasselbeck, member of Barry Berkey's writing workshop, had her first publishing credit in [The Washington Post](#) on Mon, Sep 4 (page C10). Claire first presented her essay, "The Labor of Love," during an OLLI workshop session.

**REMINDERS**

- > **FALL-TERM CLASSES START MON, SEP 18.**
- > **THE CONVERSATION PROGRAM.** Help needed! Volunteers meet Tue, Sep 12. [Details](#).
- > **ALL MEMBERS WHO JOINED LRI IN '91, '92 OR '93:** Contact Janice Dewire. [Details](#).

**ARTICLES AND NOTICE**

- > **FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.** Mason's Vision Series. *By Dick Chobot*
- > **LIST OF CLOSED COURSES.** How to sign up for open courses. *By Ann Hartmann*
- > **NEXT FRIDAY'S BOARD MEETING.** Why you might want to attend. *By Gordon Canyock*
- > **OLLI POET RECOGNIZED.** OLLI poet Mike McNamara to be published.
- > **THEATER OF THE FIRST AMENDMENT.** Upcoming events. *By Kevin Murray*
- > **CALL FOR TRIP TALES.** If you have a trip to tell about in the winter term, let OLLI know.

**DEPARTMENTS**

- > **PROFILE.** Resource Group chair Ave Tombes. *By Julie Fintel*

- > **CENTER FOR THE ARTS:** Upcoming arts and music events at Mason. *By Jan Bohall*
- > **MASON HIGHLIGHTS.** Events at nearby Mason. *By Barbara Kyriakakis*
- > **COMING ATTRACTIONS:** OLLI non-class events for next two weeks.

**Editor's Note.** For this issue and the next two issues (Sep 15 and Sep 22), OLLI member John West is serving as guest editor of *OLLI E-News*. Please send articles, notices, letters to the editor, etc. for the Sep 15 and Sep 22 issues to him [via email](#).  
-- Rod Zumbro, *OLLI E-News* editor

**FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

*About Mason's Vision Series*



By [Dick Chobot](#), Executive Director

**GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY WILL OFFER** an outstanding lecture series in the fall of 2006 and spring of 2007. *The Vision Series* will present eight distinguished faculty members from George Mason University speaking on the topics that engage them the most. The series is free, open to the public and will be held at Mason's Center for the Arts. Each presentation will be on a Monday at 8:00 PM and will be followed by a reception for the speaker.

The series begins on September 25 with Richard Florida, the Hirst Professor of Public Policy. He will speak on "The Flight of the Creative Class: The New Global Competition for Talent." An article on Florida and his work appeared in the [August 7, 2006 issue of Business Week](#).

Following are the remaining lectures of 2006:

- October 23, 2006 – Giorgio Ascoli, Krasnow Institute, "Toward Virtual Brains"
- November 6, 2006 – June Tangney, Professor of Psychology, "Shame and Guilt: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly"
- December 4, 2006 – Rainald Lohner, Professor of Computational Sciences, "Computational Sciences: The Third Pillar of the Empirical Sciences"

Four programs of equal quality and interest will be presented during the first four months of 2007. You may read details about each lecture and order free tickets by visiting the Center for the Arts' [Vision Series Website page](#). You may also obtain tickets at the Center for the Arts ticket office (Tuesday–Saturday, 10:00– 6:00) and on the evening of the event. No phone requests will be taken.

Programs of this caliber represent one advantage of affiliation with a university of George Mason's stature. I encourage you to take advantage of these offerings and others that are announced from time to time.

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## CLOSED FALL COURSES

*It's not too late to sign up for many courses and events*



By [Ann Hartmann](#), Tallwood Site Administrator/OLLI Registrar

**YOU WILL RECEIVE YOUR CONFIRMATION LETTER SOON**, showing the courses and events in which you have been enrolled. Many courses and events are not full, and it's not too late to sign up. You may register for any of the still-available courses and events by filling in a Change of Schedule Request form available in the Tallwood social room. If you are unable to come by Tallwood to fill out this form, you may [email](#) or call the office (703-503-3384) with your request.

Here is the list of [closed courses](#) and events for the fall term. **All others are still available.**

CLOSED COURSES		
301- Highlights of Virginia's History	413- Life Story Writing Workshop	E- Fall for the Book Author Bernard E. Trainor
302- Jamestown and Colonial America	604- Ethical Challenges in a World of Change	F- Visit to Ladew Topiary Gardens and Manor
308- Indonesia: the Largest Archipelago	701- American Fear	H- Library of Congress
310- Through the Jade Gate to Central Asia	702- American Perspectives: Comparing Worlds	I- Carmen
404- Examined Lives	704- Intelligence-Policy Relationship:	L- Relations Between American and Israeli Jewry
405- Literary Roundtable	902- Wine, From the Vine to Glass	M- The Supreme Court

**Note:** If your plans have changed such that you will no longer be able to attend any of the courses in which you are enrolled, PLEASE NOTIFY THE OFFICE by [email](#) or phone (703-503-3384) as soon as possible so that if that course is full, members on the waiting list can be given an opportunity to enroll. Thank you!

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## NEXT WEEK'S BOARD MEETING

## Why you may want to attend this meeting



By [Gordon Canyock](#), Board member

**OLLI MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND BOARD MEETINGS** and make their views known. All Board meetings (except executive sessions) are open to the general membership. The September Board meeting in Reston (note new location for this Board meeting) on Friday, September 15, promises to be an interesting one; the following topics are on the tentative agenda--

- **Revised Bylaws.** The Board is scheduled to vote on whether or not the final version of the revised bylaws should be presented to the membership for its approval at a special membership meeting to be called this fall; and
- **Reimbursement for Meals and Entertainment.** The Board is expected to discuss ground rules for the use of the new Meals and Entertainment budget line item that was recently approved in the amount of \$200 per month for the balance of 2006.

**CAUTION: At press time, the above topics are expected to be discussed ... but there are no guarantees.** The president sets the agenda. If you are interested in attending this (or any) Board meeting and wish to know for sure what will be discussed, please contact the office by phone (703-503-3384) or [email](#) a day or two in advance of the meeting and ask for the agenda.

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## OLLI POET RECOGNIZED

*OLLI poet Mike McNamara to be published*

**OLLI member Mike McNamara's poem**, printed below, was just accepted for publication by *Mindprints: A Literary Journal* of Allan Hancock College, Santa Maria, California.



The journal describes itself as "one of the few national community college journals devoted to celebrating the work of artists and writers with disabilities. We look for a strong voice, unusual point of view and rich imagery and description."

Mike was retired from military service with a 70 percent disability -- mostly, he says, from jumping out of perfectly good airplanes or falling out of equally serviceable helicopters.

**Sniper**

*Then I turned him over with my boot.  
 He settled back, spineless, limp,  
 Into the water and the rice.  
 His hands, young hands, still tangled  
 In the fresh, green stalks.  
 His rifle lay cooling beside him,  
 Chamber and bore clotted with mud and rice.  
 His black, faded shorts, darker now  
 With water, streaked with  
 Bright new color,  
 And his exploded parts.*

*His back had shown just three punched holes;  
 His front was all one opened, blue-boweled gut.  
 Young? Certainly young, despite  
 The water-shriveled hands,  
 And twisted mouth;  
 Despite the gaping front,  
 And open, glazing eyes.  
 Maybe he was eighteen, or less.*

*Suddenly I was there alone:  
 He was perhaps myself, some other time,  
 Or my own son, some future place.  
 Then, before those thoughts  
 Could wash away my daily purpose,  
 Memory checked that flow.  
 This was the sniper who killed Lieutenant James.  
 I had almost forgotten that.*

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## THEATER OF THE FIRST AMENDMENT

Upcoming TFA events



By Kevin Murray, TFA Managing Director

**CALLING ALL THEATER LOVERS:** Following is a list of upcoming TFA events. Theater of the First Amendment, George Mason University's professional equity theater company, is a part of GREAT PERFORMANCES AT MASON. TFA focuses on new works, rediscovered classics and family productions that embody the slogan, "We entertain ideas." For more information, please call 703-993-2195 or send me an [email](#).

WORDS AT NIGHT	PANEL DISCUSSION	FIRST FRIDAYS AT OLD TOWN HALL
Wed, Sep 27, 8:30, Harris Theater. FREE	Wed, Oct 4, 7:00, Center for the Arts Concert Hall. FREE	Fri, Oct 6, 7:30, Old Town Hall, 3999 University Dr., Fairfax. FREE
TFA presents <i>Words at Night</i> , staged readings of literary works by new professors in Mason's MFA Program in Creative Writing, Courtney Brkic, Kyoko Mori and Sally Keith. A Fall for the Book event; visit its <a href="#">Website</a> for the latest schedule information and updates.	TFA Artistic Director Rick Davis moderates a panel discussion focusing on the Arena Stage archives and the evolution of new work for the American theater, featuring a group of distinguished playwrights scheduled to include Heather McDonald, Mary Hall Surface, Paul D'Andrea, Karen Zacarias, along with one of America's most senior dramaturgs, Arena Stage's Mark Bly. The event will feature selected readings of scenes along with lively discussion and audience interaction. A Fall for the Book event; visit its <a href="#">Website</a> for the latest schedule information and updates.	TFA's First Fridays at Old Town Hall presents <i>The Patient Stone</i> , by Sadeq Hedayat, adapted for the stage by Amin Neshati and Kristin Johnsen-Neshati. Join us as we present a reading of this new work-in-progress. Bring the kids! <i>Trapped in a world of riches and haunted by solitude, Fatemeh strives to save her beloved, Javanmard. But when he rises from a mysterious slumber, will the young man distinguish true love from treachery? This Persian folktale, as retold by one of Iran's leading twentieth-century writers, recalls the darker tales of the Brothers Grimm and centers on themes of sacrifice, purity of heart and personal destiny.</i>

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## PROFILE OF AVERETT TOMBES

Meet one of OLLI's Resource Group chairs



By Julie Fintel, OLLI E-News staff

writer

**OLLI CAN BOAST OF ITS OWN RENAISSANCE MAN.** Averett Tombes is a medal-winning athlete, chairs OLLI's Science,



Health and Technology Resource Group, holds a PhD in biology, and has taught, conducted research and served in administration at four universities. Now he takes OLLI classes in current events, history and a variety of other subjects.

Last year in the Northern Virginia Senior Olympics, Ave won the gold medal in the 200-meter dash and bronze medals in the 50-yard dash and the shot put. (See *details about Ave's performance in a related story*. -- Ed.)

As chairman of OLLI's Science, Health and Technology Resource Group, Ave discusses with his committee which classes would appeal to OLLI's members. Courses could include oceanography, physics and other science subjects. One recent Health course has proven to be very popular, thanks to the teaching of retired George Mason biology professor Jayne Hart; part 2 of her Health class will be given this winter.

Ave is married to OLLI member [Jane Tombes](#), who co-chairs another resource group. As if their lives weren't busy enough, Ave and Jane find time to enjoy their four children and 11 grandchildren who live in Virginia and North Carolina.

Jane and Ave see OLLI as an opportunity to continue to learn and to expand their already considerable knowledge.

*Photo of Ave Tombes by Gordon Canyock*

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### CALL FOR TRIP TALES

**A FAVORITE OLLI CLASS** is *Trip Tales*, where members share recent travel experiences to places around the world. We have been to Africa, Antarctica and South America ... to name just a few. During the winter session, we invite you to share interesting and exciting trips you have taken.



The *Trip Tales* course is scheduled on Tuesdays at 11:30, Jan 23–Feb 13. Please contact Virilinda Snyder at 703-339-5748 or [Rae Schafer](#) (phone 703-503-3384) to let OLLI know if you interested in making a presentation. We look forward to hearing from you.

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### 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 the [Center for the Arts](#) Box Office, Tue–Sat, 10:00–6:00.

### Fairfax Symphony Orchestra

*William Hudson conducting  
Santiago Rodriguez at the piano*

Saturday, Sep 16, at 8:00  
Admission \$45, \$35, \$25  
Concert Hall

This first concert of the Symphony's 50th Anniversary season brings Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 6 in B Minor, op. 74, his 'Pathetique' Symphony; and Rachmaninoff's difficult Piano Concerto No. 3 in D Minor, op. 30.

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### MASON HIGHLIGHTS

*A brief listing of other events at nearby Mason*



By Barbara Kyriakakis, OLLI E-News assistant editor

<p><b>Football Tailgate Party</b> - Did you know Mason has a <a href="#">football team</a>? Come and enjoy the pre-game party on Sep 9 from 4-7 pm in Lot J, kicking off the team's first game: GMU v. St. Paul's College at Robinson Field. Free food and snacks, XBOX 360 give away at halftime, T-shirt giveaway, gift cards, DJ and more. Tickets \$5; pre-game party free. (703) 993-3467.</p>	<p><b>The Krasnow Monday seminars</b> begin on Sep 11. The first, entitled "<b>The neurobiology of crocodilians and blind cave fish</b>" will be presented by guest speaker Daphne Soares, Biology College of Life Sciences, Univ. of MD. All <a href="#">lectures</a> will be held in Room 229 of the Krasnow Institute at 4 pm with a discussion following the lecture.</p>	<p><b>The Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution</b> will also host a Mon. <a href="#">seminar</a> on Sep 11 entitled <b>Conflict Analysis and Resolution in the Republic of Georgia</b> at 3 pm in Truland, Room 555, Arlington Campus. Irakli Kakabadze, a 1996 graduate of ICAR, will speak.</p>	<p><b>Cinema Series</b> – Did you miss <b>The Da Vinci Code</b>? Here is your chance to see it for \$1 with your GMU ID card; Sep 15 and 16, 6 and 9 pm, Johnson Center <a href="#">Cinema</a>. (703) 993-1702.</p>
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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 more complete [OLLI Staff Forecast of Non-Class Events](#). *Board, committee and resource-group meetings are **highlighted in bold**. OLLI members are welcome at all*

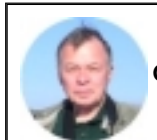
*Board, committee and resource-group meetings (except executive sessions).*

Sep			
8	Friday	10:00 AM	<b>Planning Committee Meeting</b> TA Annex
		10:00 AM	Recorder Group TA-2
		1:30 PM	Homer Book Club TA Annex
12	Tuesday	10:00 AM	<b>Publications Committee Meeting</b> TA Annex
13	Wednesday	10:00 AM	Book Club at Tallwood TA-2
		10:00 AM	Bridge TA-3
		10:00 AM	Investment Forum TA-1
15	Friday	9:30 AM	Drama Club TA-1
		10:00 AM	<b>Board of Directors Meeting</b> Lake Anne Church
		10:00 AM	Recorder Group TA-2
		1:30 PM	Homer Book Club TA Annex
18	Monday	9:30 AM	Fall 06 Term Begins
20	Wednesday	1:30 PM	Fiction Writers' Club TA-2
		1:30 PM	Bridge TA-3
		2:00 PM	Genealogy TA-1
22	Friday	9:30 AM	Drama Club TA-1
		9:30 AM	Recorder Class TA-2
		10:00 AM	Fiction Book Club Reston Library
		10:30 AM	<b>Newcomer Coffee</b> TA Annex
		11:30 AM	Recorder Group TA-2
		1:30 PM	Homer Book Club TA Annex

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Rod Zumbro  
Editor



[John West](#)

Guest editor for this week: OLLI member

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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 gmu.edu email address, we recommend against using [GMU Webmail](#) (i.e., iPlanet "Messenger Express") to read the newsletter because it is not easy to view our newsletter as a single integrated document, with text and accompanying images. As you may know, you can easily use other email systems, such as Outlook Express or Yahoo Mail, to retrieve mail sent to external addresses such as your gmu.edu address. An alternative is to read your newsletter online at the [OLLI Website](#) after it is posted each Friday.

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